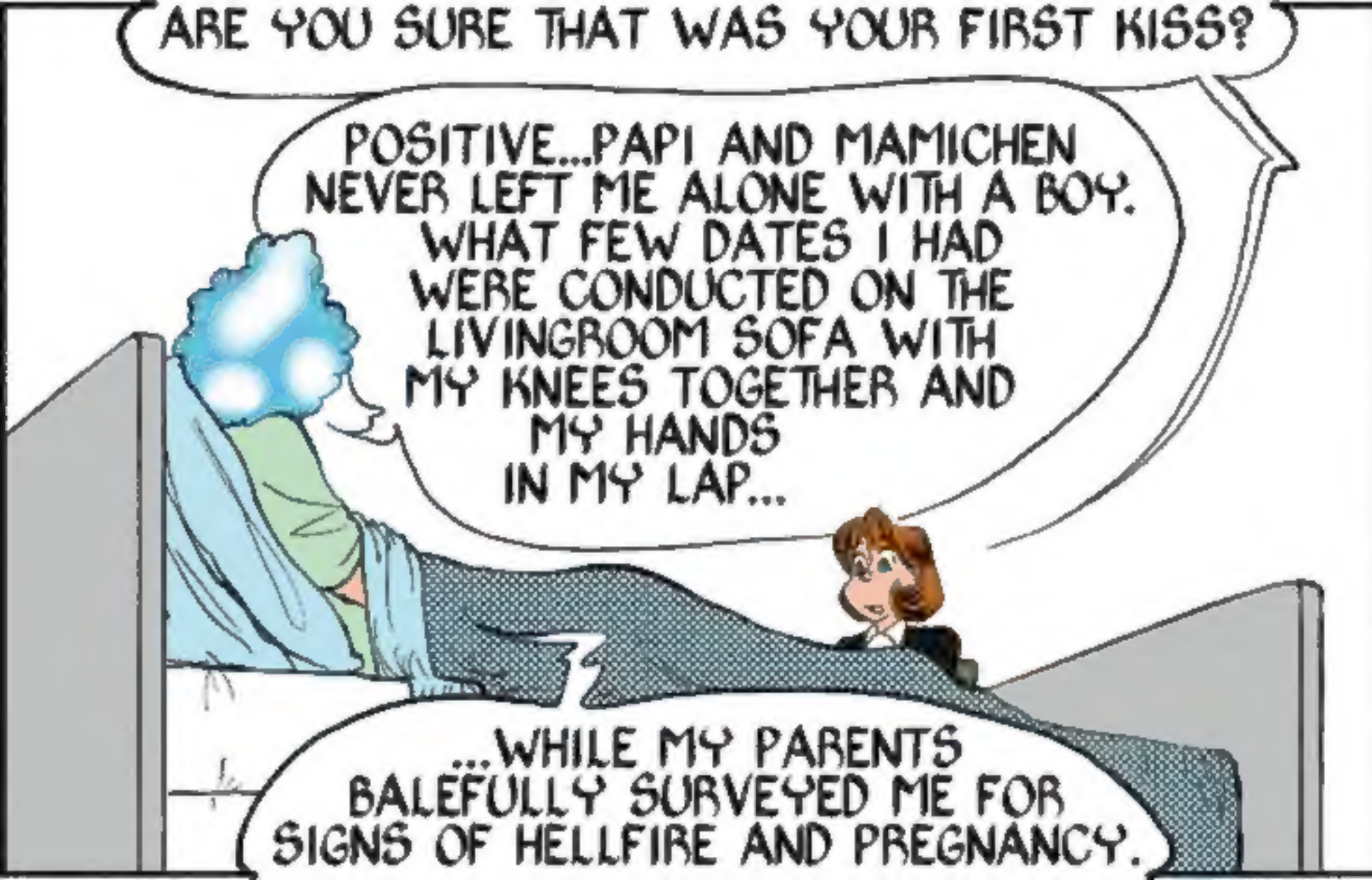




2010



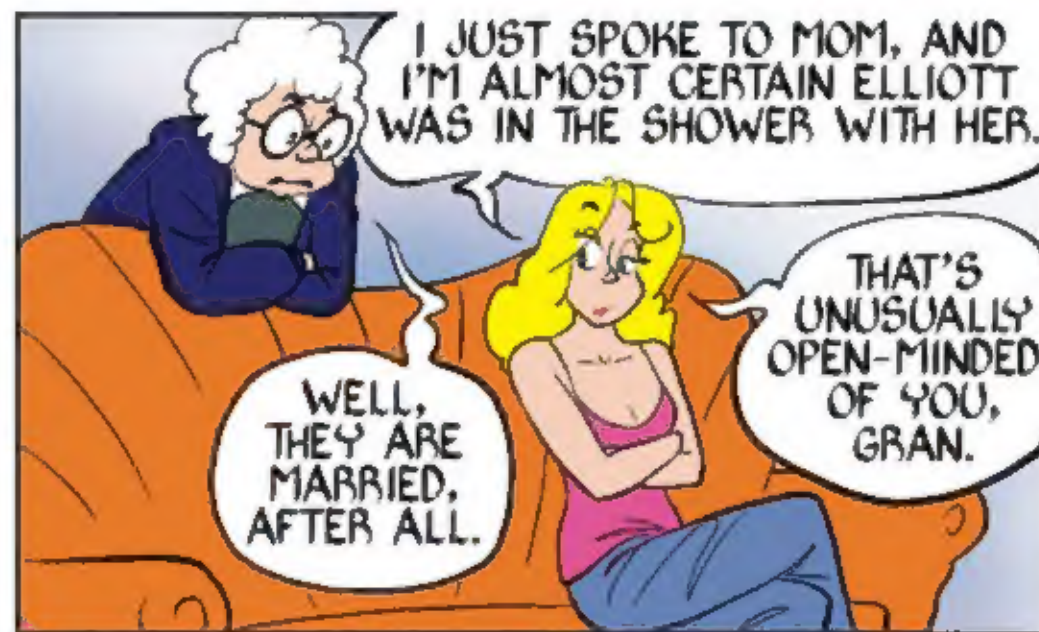
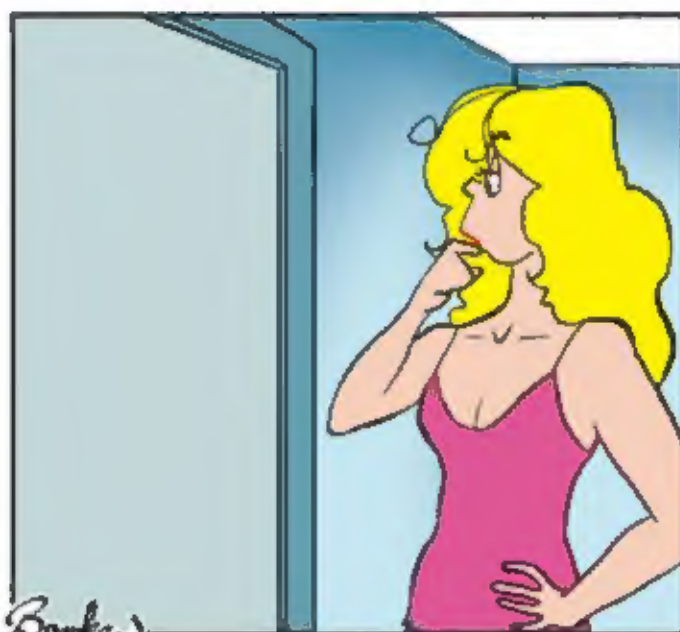






# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

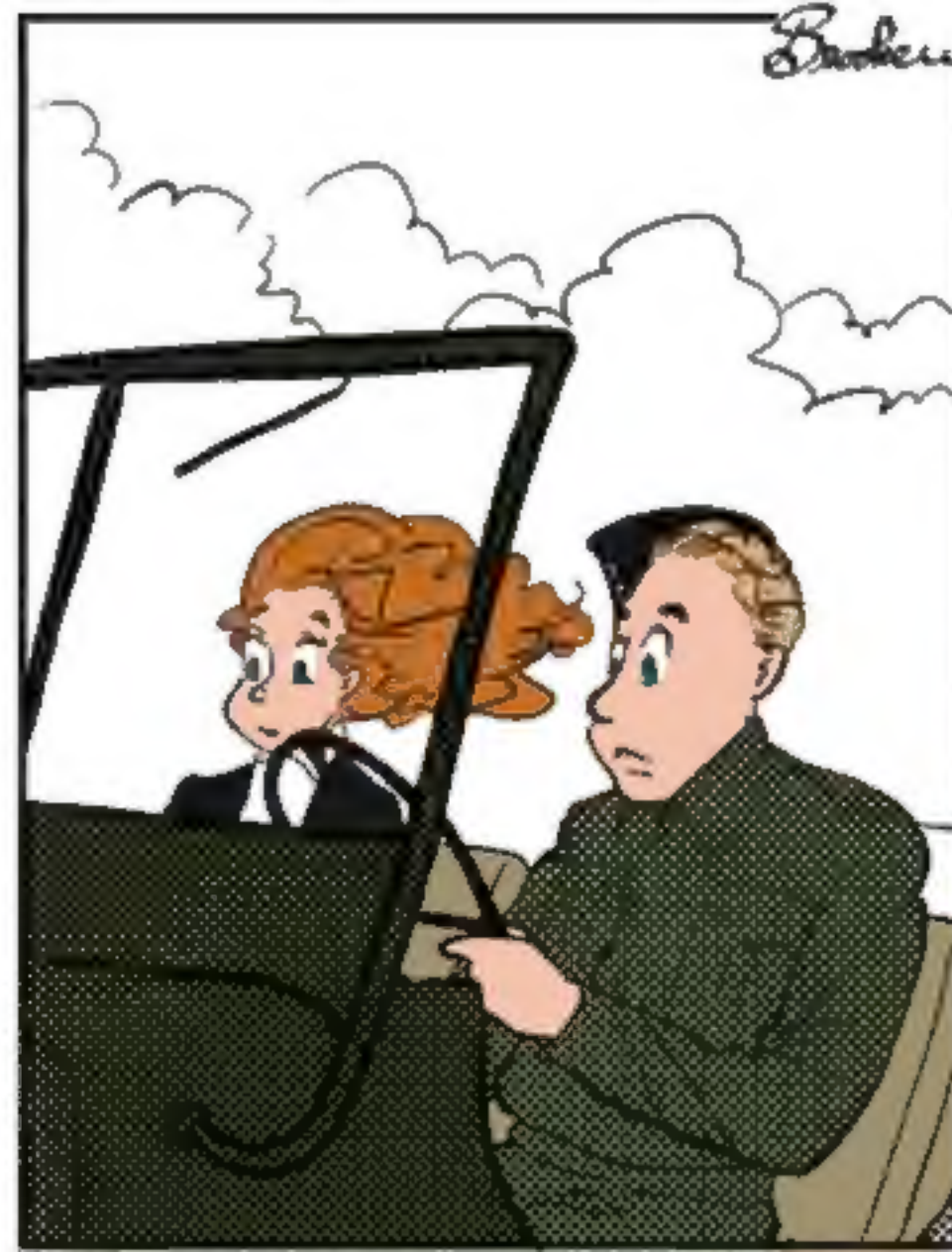
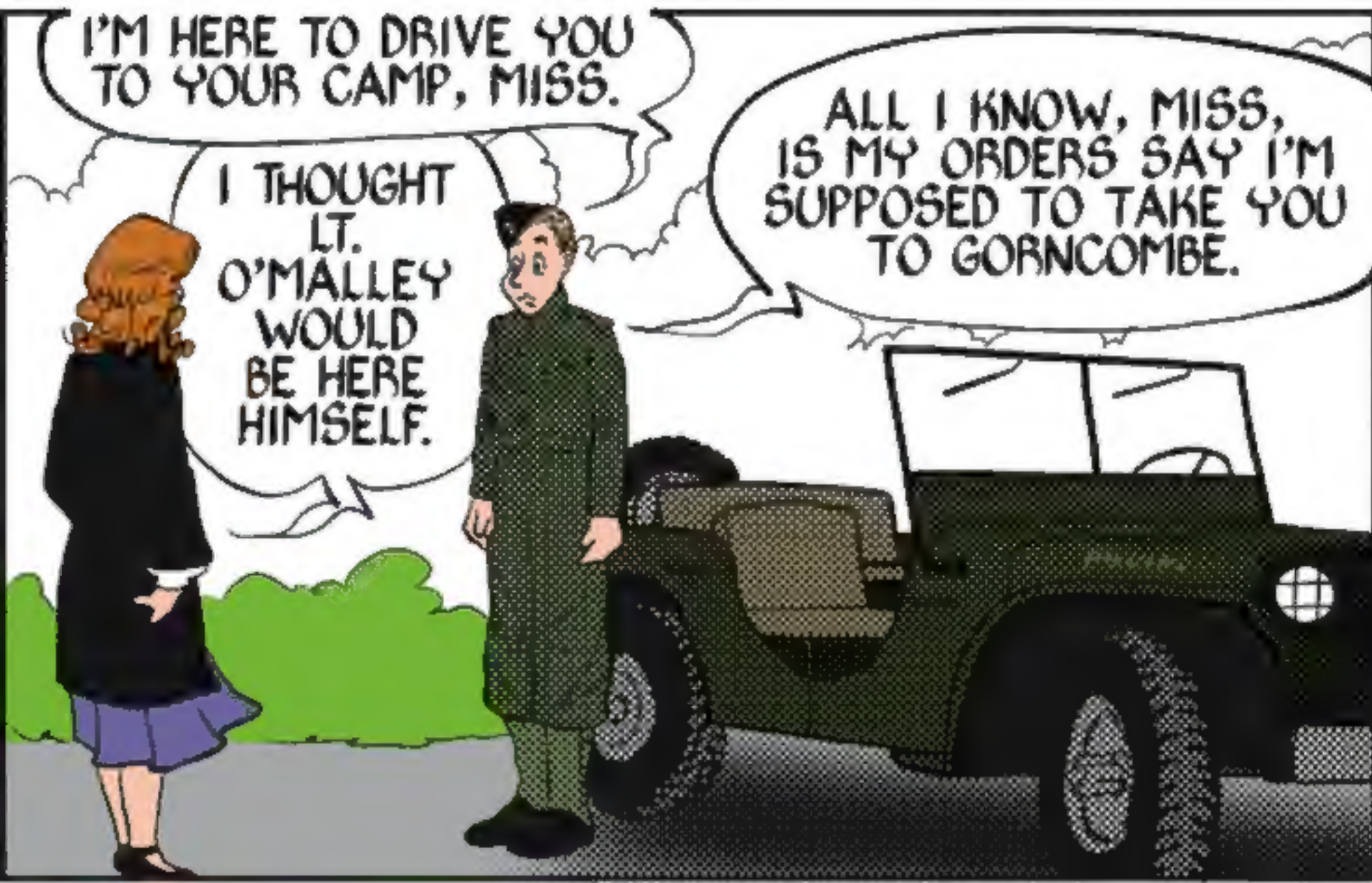
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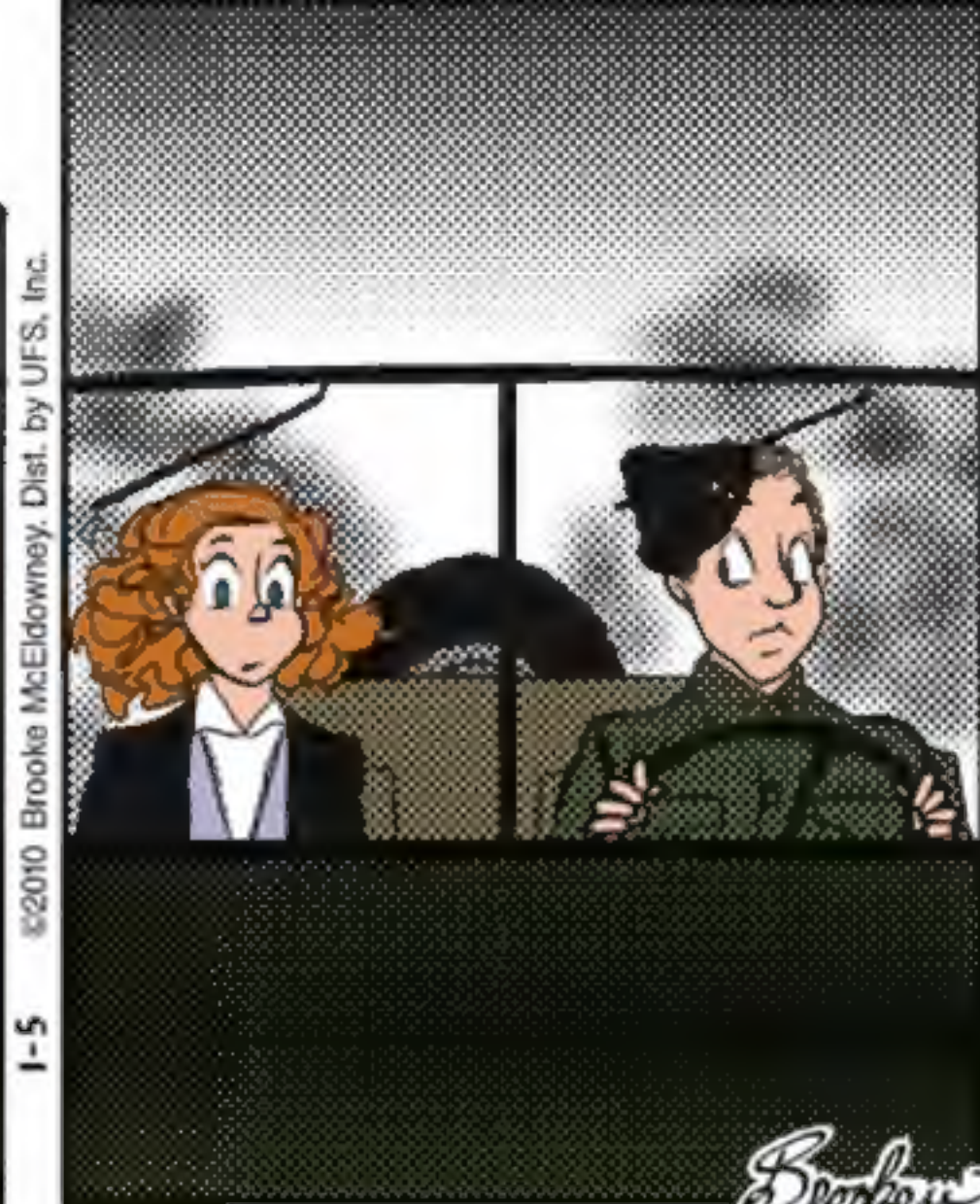




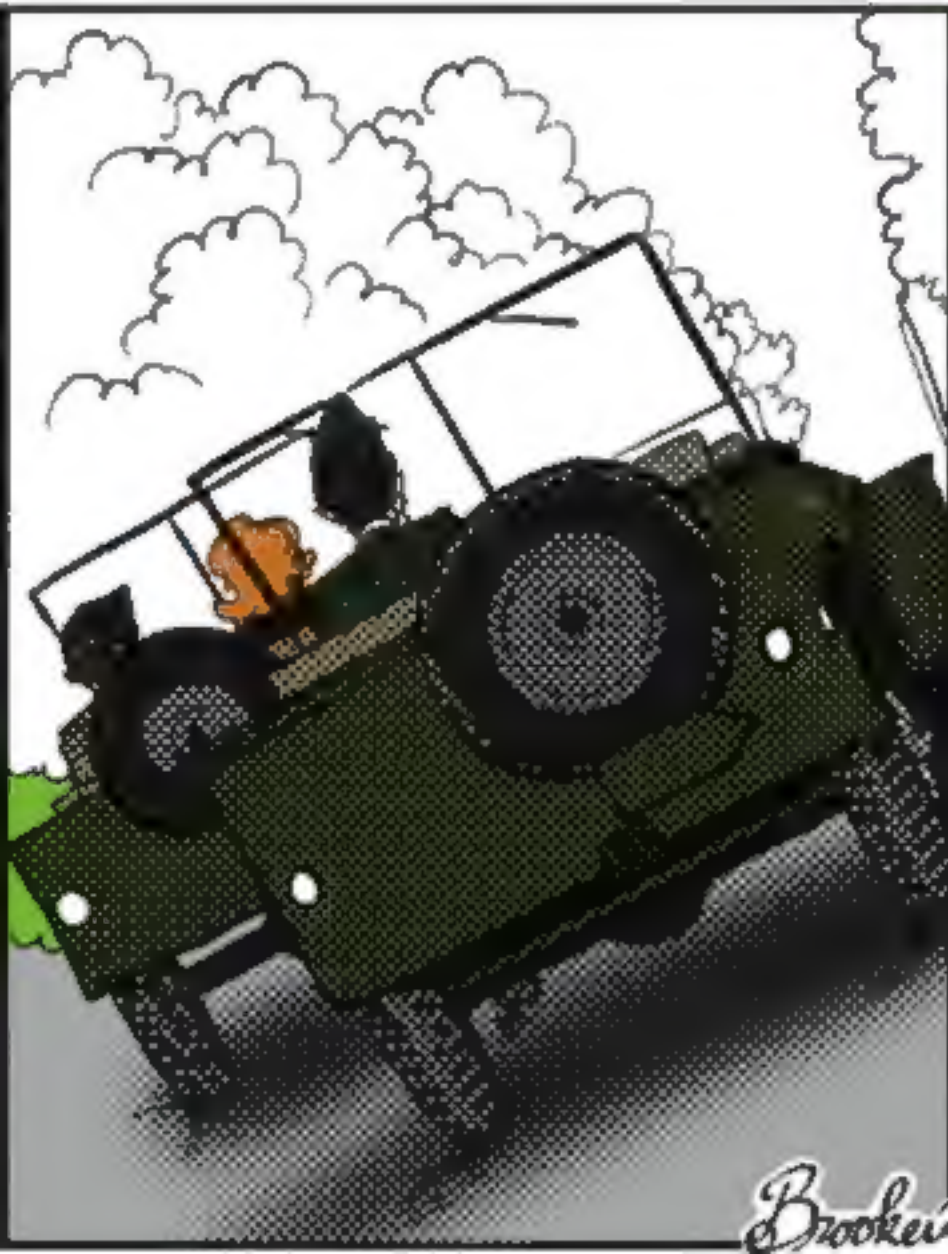
IF YOU DON'T MIND MY  
ASKING, MISS...WHAT IS  
YOUR BUSINESS AT THE  
GORNCOMBE CAMP?



I'M GOING  
THERE TO ENTERTAIN  
THE PRISONERS.

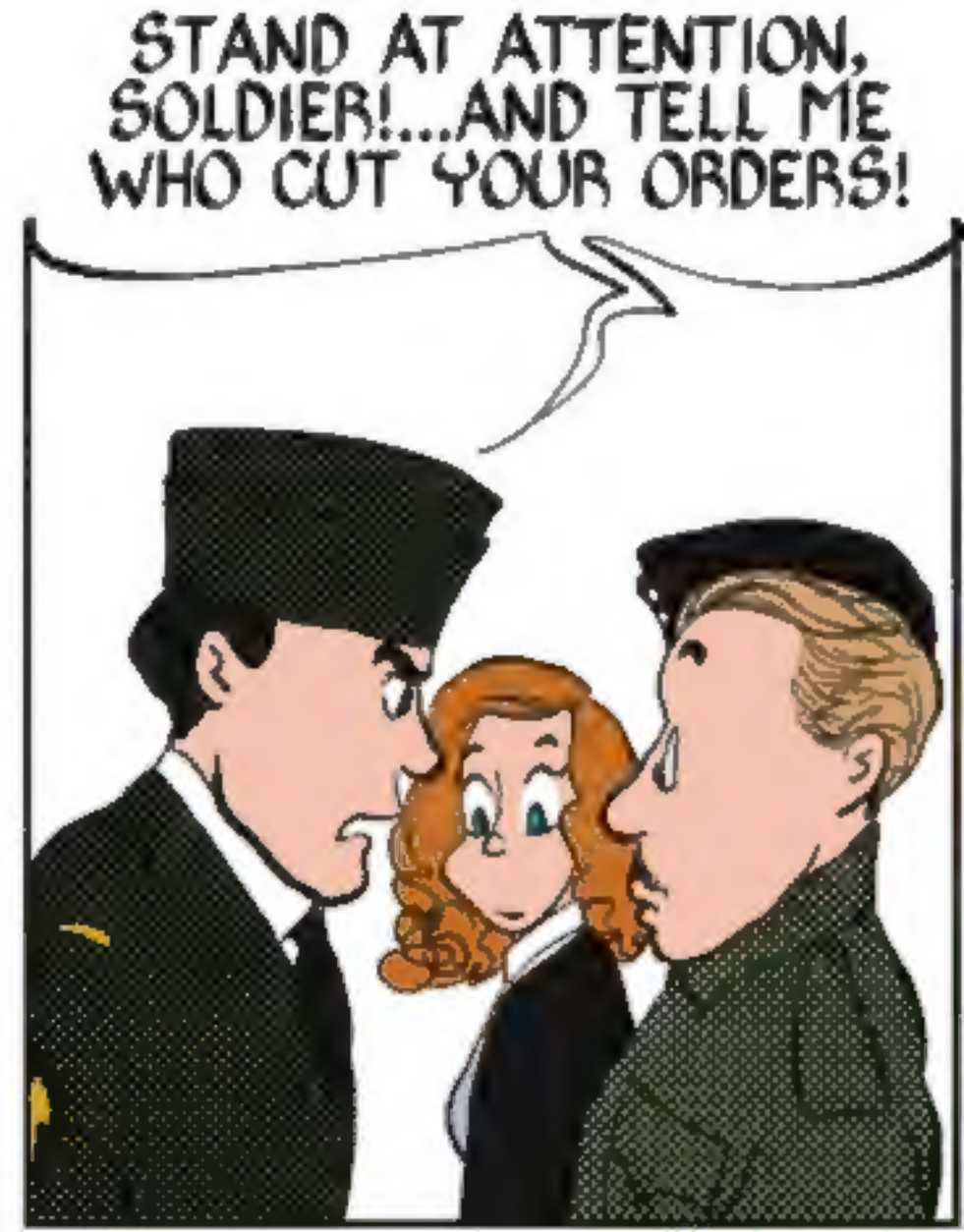






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Brooke





IT TURNED OUT THE P.O.W.  
CAMP COMMANDANT HAD  
SENT THROUGH ORDERS  
TO TAKE ME TO ANOTHER  
CAMP WHERE THERE HAD  
BEEN NEAR-RIOTS BETWEEN  
RUSSIAN CONSCRIPTS IN  
THE GERMAN  
ARMY...



...AND GERMAN  
SOLDIERS  
WHO DETESTED  
THEM.

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YOU WILL SCRUPULOUSLY  
ADHERE TO YOUR ORDERS,  
IF YOU KNOW WHAT IS  
GOOD FOR YOU.  
THERE WILL BE  
NO FURTHER  
ATTEMPTS TO  
PUT MISS ERNST  
AT RISK.



I'M NOT ACCUSTOMED TO  
BEING ADDRESSED IN THIS  
MANNER BY A SUBORDINATE.

*Brooke*

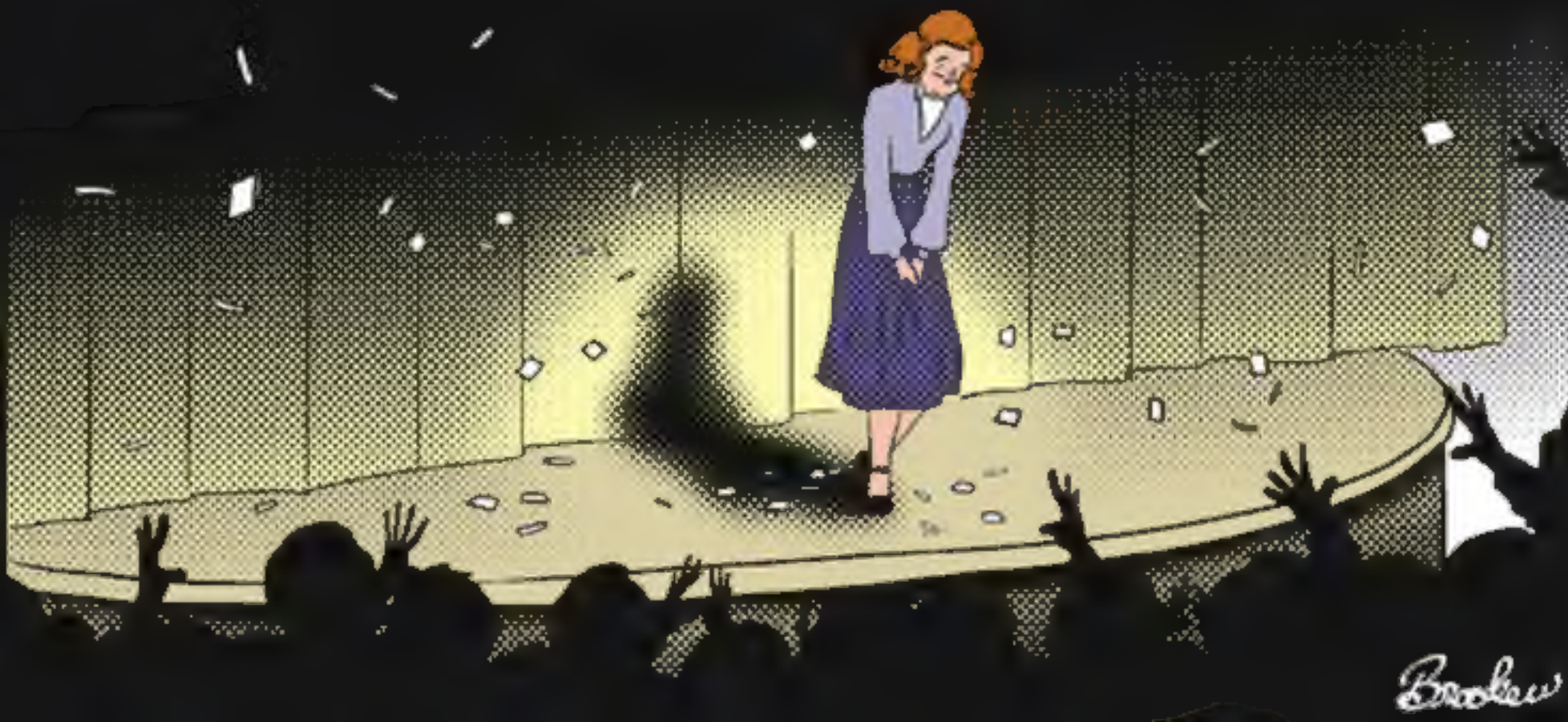


FURTHERMORE,  
I DID NOT DISMISS  
YOU, LIEUTENANT.

NO,  
YOU  
DIDN'T.

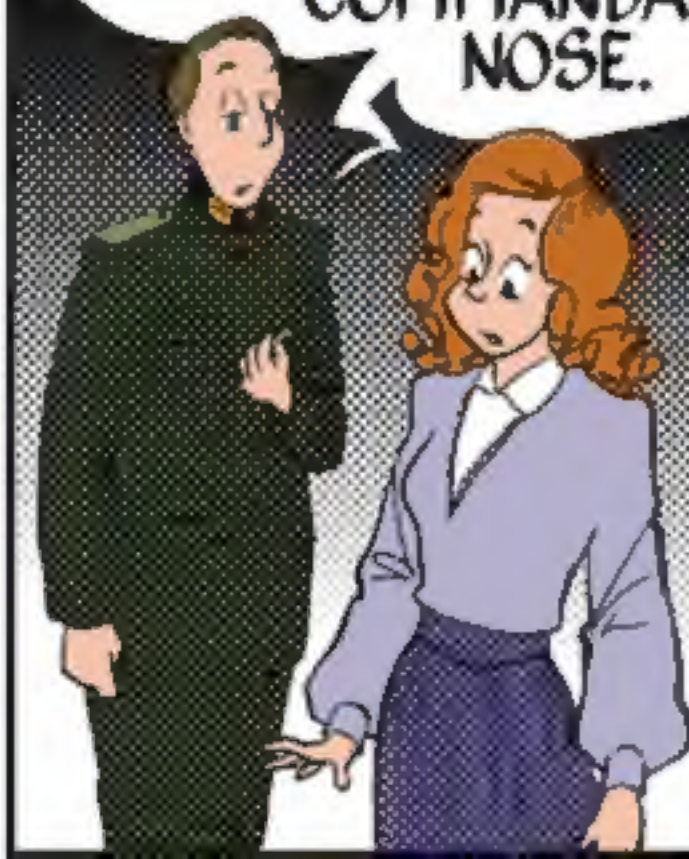


"AFTER MY PERFORMANCE, A ROAR WELLED UP FROM THE PRISONERS, AND THEY STARTED THROWING RED CROSS CHOCOLATE AND CIGARETTES ONTO THE STAGE."



WHY WERE THEY CHEERING SO LOUDLY?

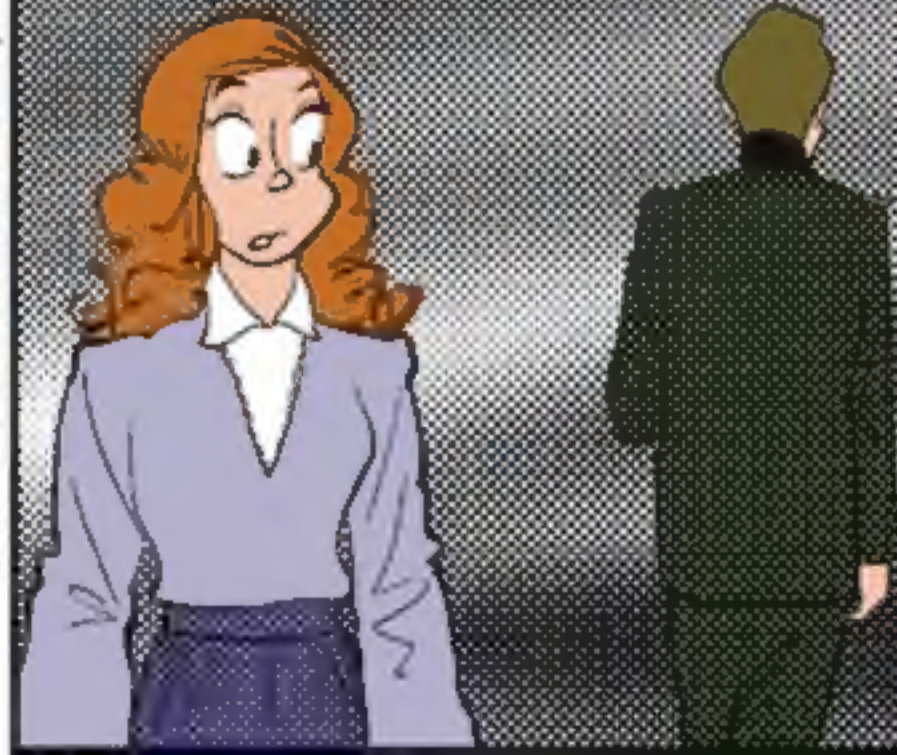
A RUMOR CIRCULATED THAT YOU PULLED THE COMMANDANT'S NOSE.



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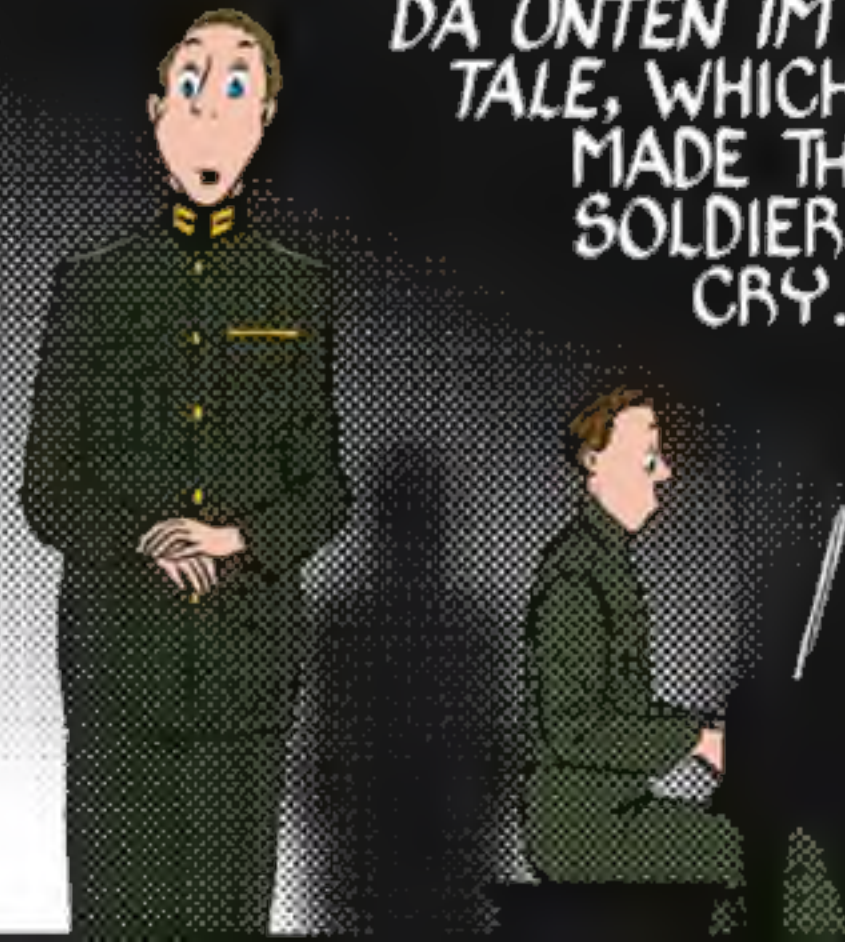
WHO TOLD THEM THAT?

I BELIEVE I DID.





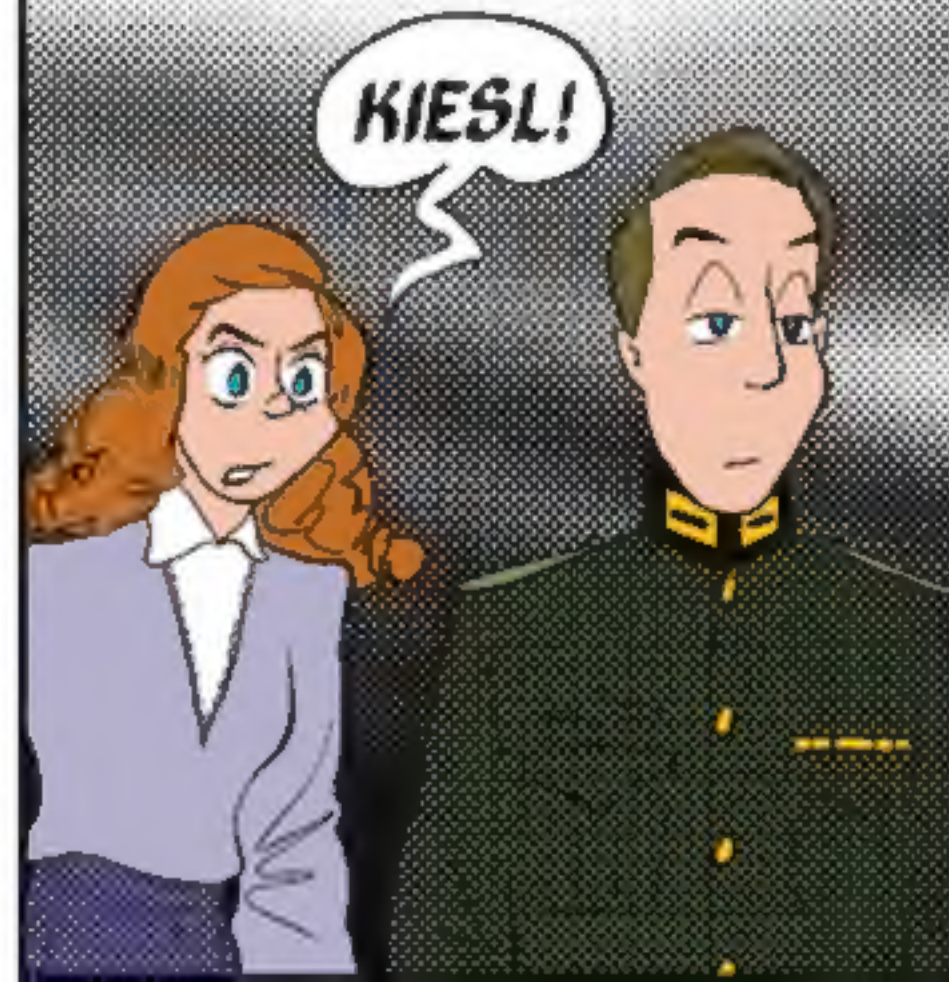
"AFTER I HAD PERFORMED,  
KIESL SANG FROM BRAHMS'  
DEUTSCHE VOLKSLIEDER...  
...IN STILLER NACHT, AND  
DA UNTEN IM  
TALE, WHICH  
MADE THE  
SOLDIERS  
CRY..."



"THEN HE SANG  
MAHLER, WHO WAS  
FORBIDDEN BY THE NAZI  
GOVERNMENT. THE SONG  
WAS ICH BIN DER WELT  
ABHANDEN  
GEKOMMEN.  
...AND IT  
MADE ME  
CRY."

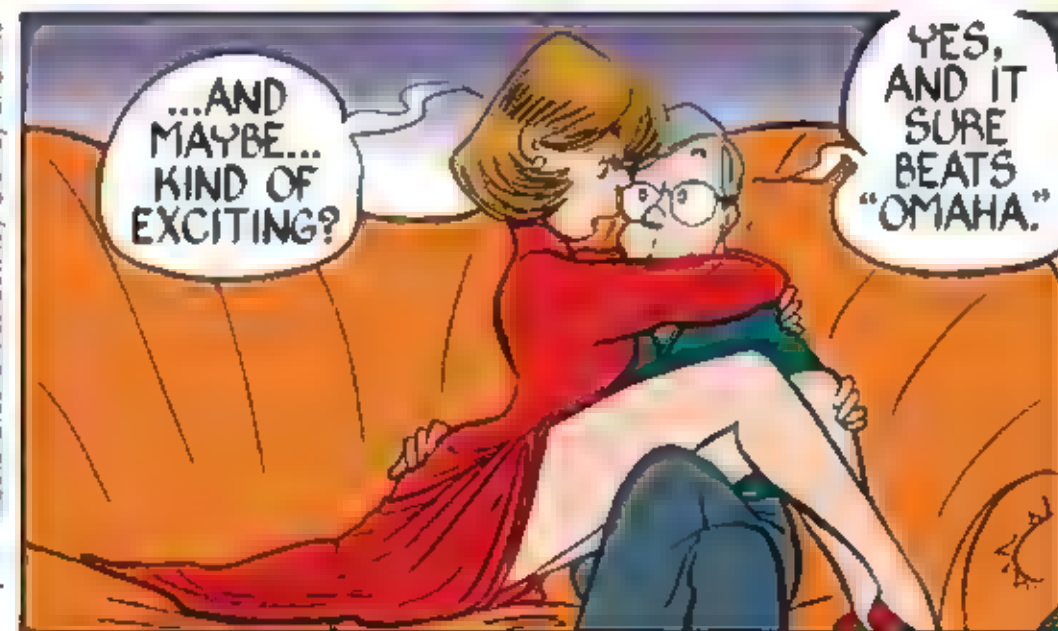
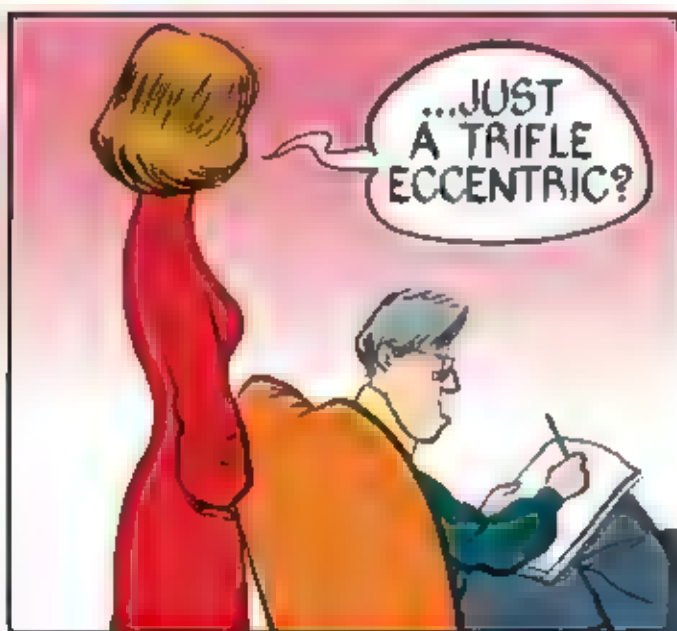
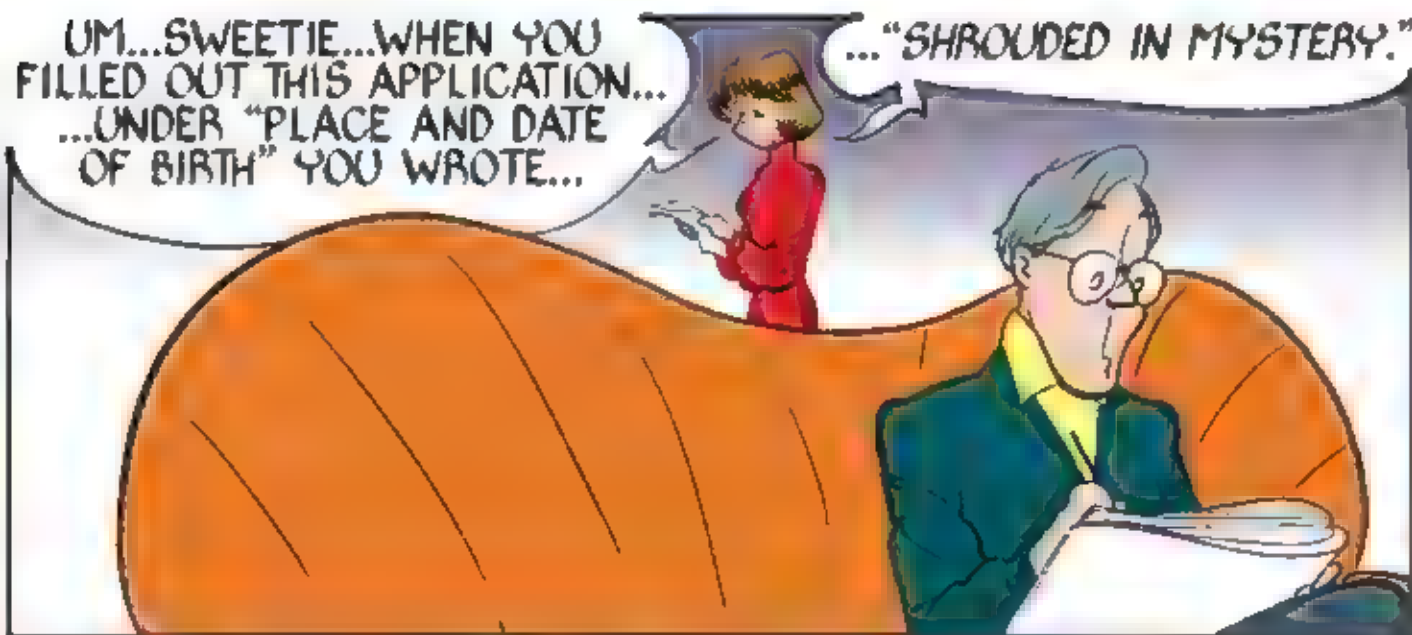
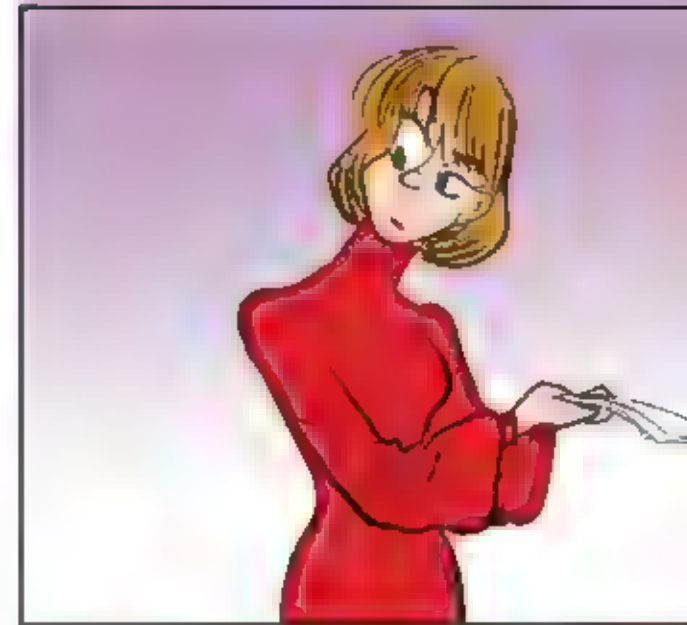


"THEN HE WALKED PAST  
ME AGAIN AS IF I  
WEREN'T THERE."





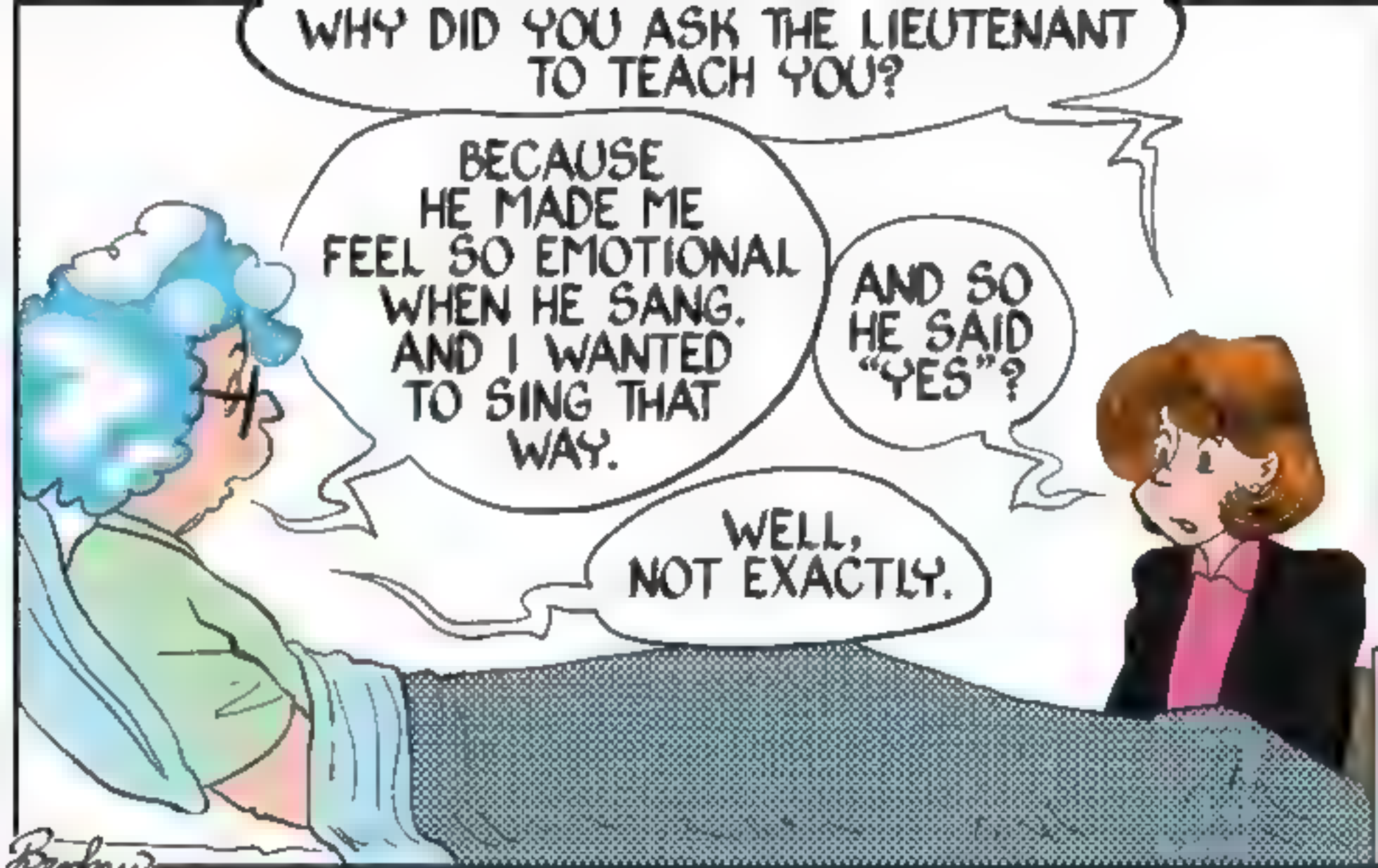
# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



Brooklyn

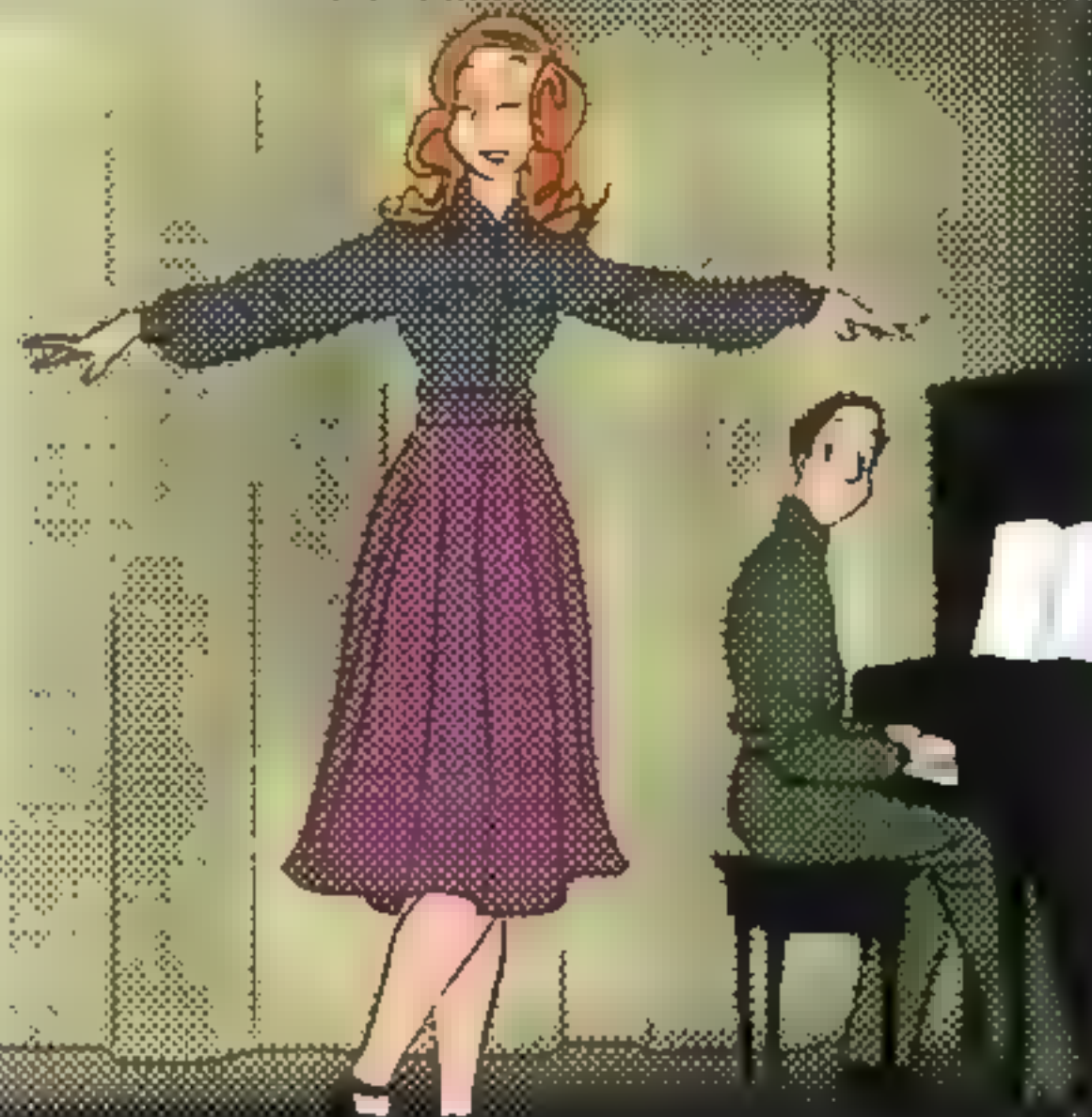
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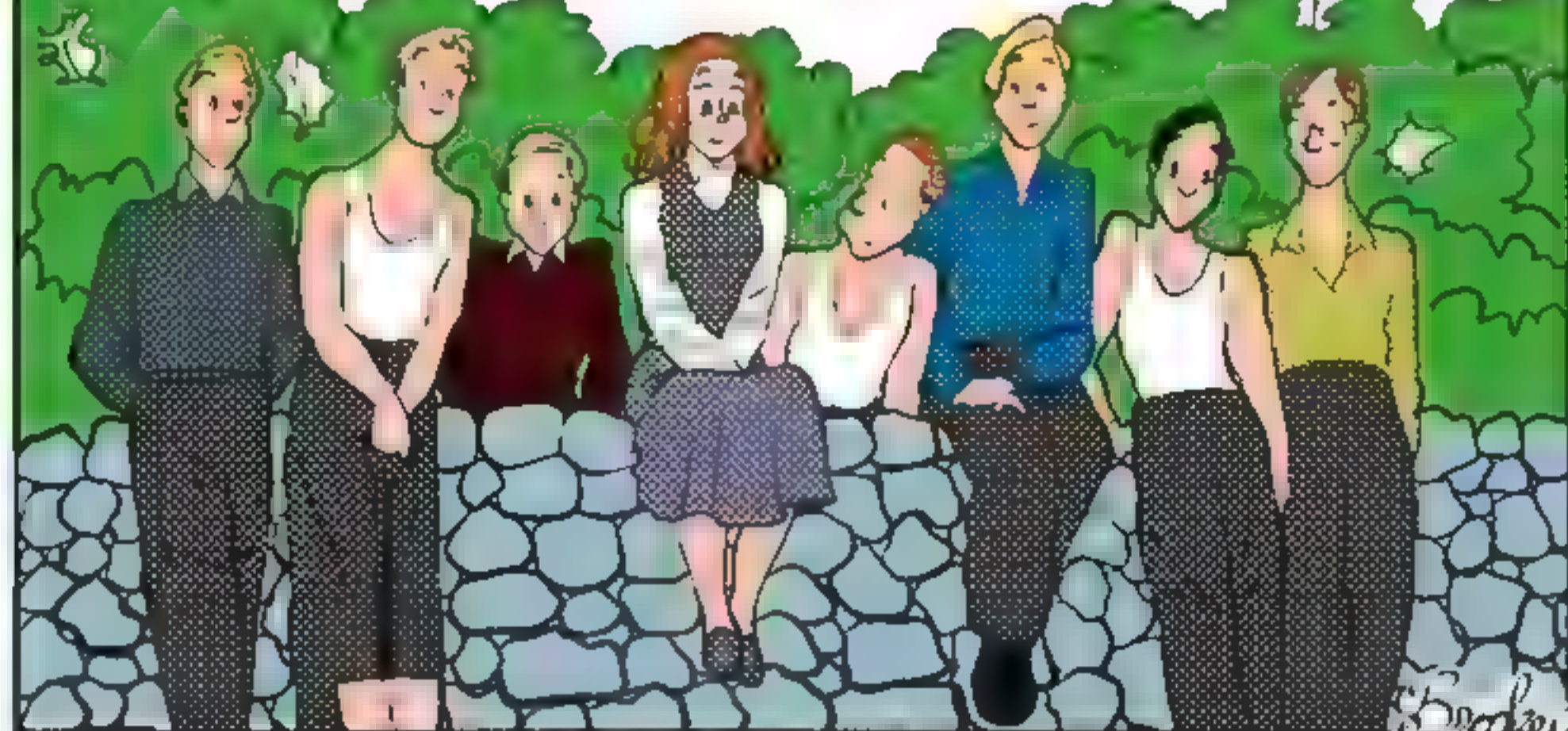




"I KEPT SEEING  
LIEUTENANT KIESL  
BECAUSE THE CAMP  
WAS SORT OF AN  
ENTRANCE POINT,  
A WEIGH STATION  
FOR ARRIVING  
P.O.W.s WHO WERE  
INTERROGATED  
THEN SENT ON TO  
OTHER CAMPS.  
MEANWHILE, I SANG,  
I TALKED TO THE  
PRISONERS,  
I LISTENED  
AND I REPORTED  
BACK TO BILL.



"I EVEN WENT OUT INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE  
WITH THE MORE RELIABLE PRISONERS TO BE  
PHOTOGRAPHED WITH THEM WHILE THEY  
WORKED ON FARMS."





FINALLY, I GOT TIRED OF  
KIESL'S SKIRTING AND  
SNUBBING, SO I CORNERED  
HIM IN A  
LAUNDRY ROOM.



Brooke

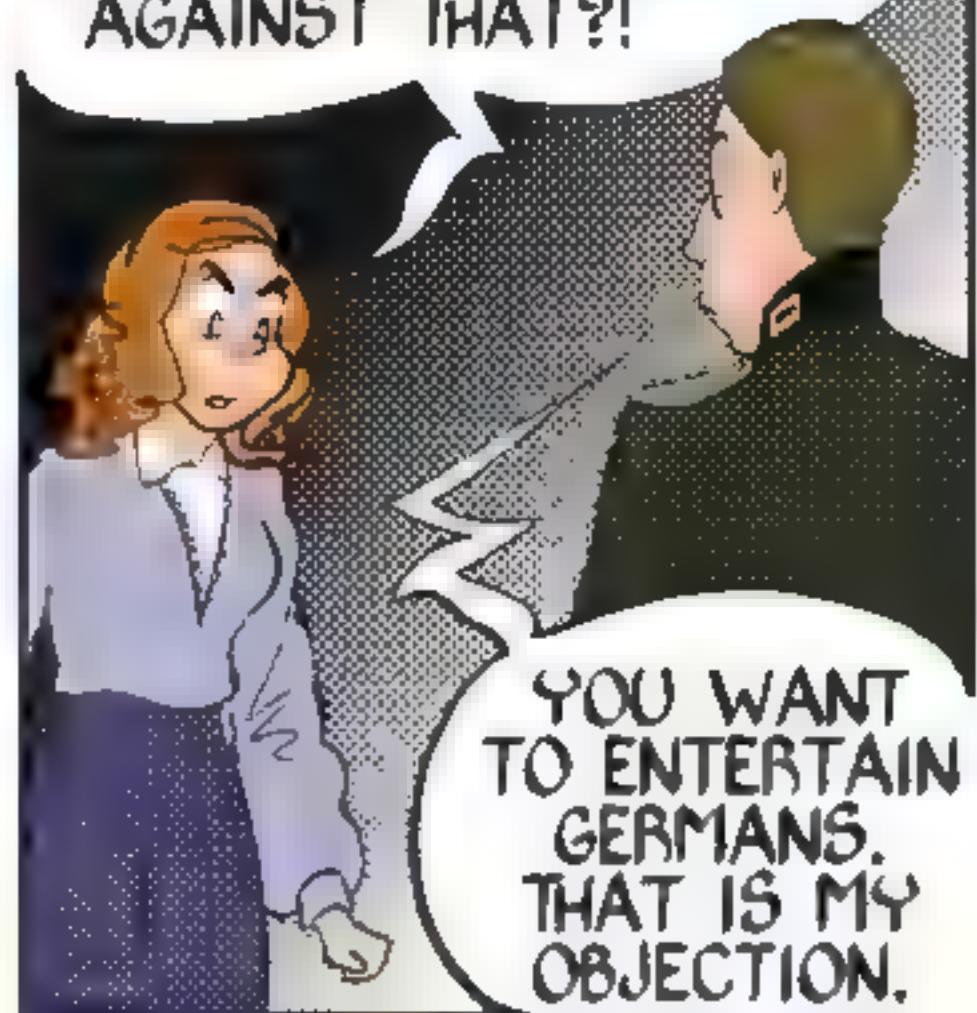
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WHAT IS YOUR  
OBJECTION  
TO ME?!



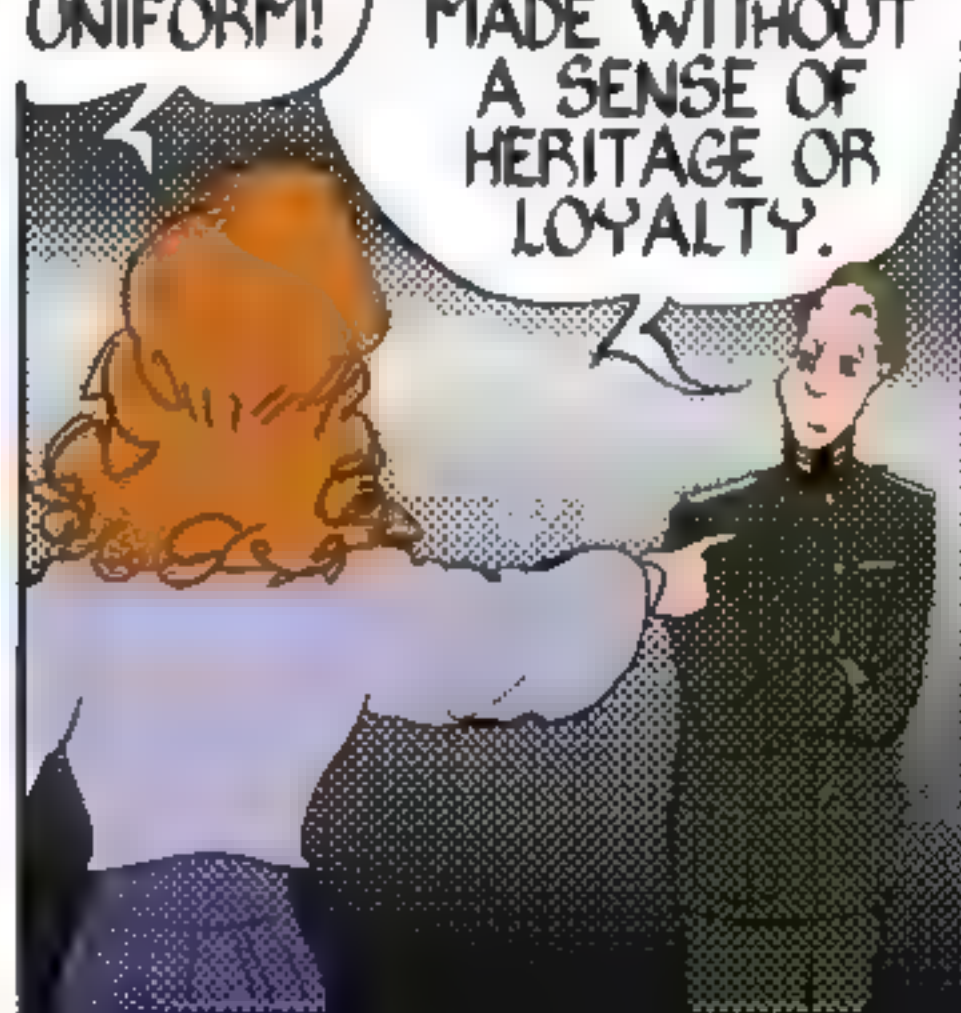
WHEN  
YOU SPEAK  
GERMAN,  
YOUR  
ACCENT...  
...IT'S  
AUSTRIAN.

MY PARENTS ARE VIENNESE.  
SO, OBVIOUSLY, ARE YOU.  
WHAT DO YOU HAVE  
AGAINST THAT?!



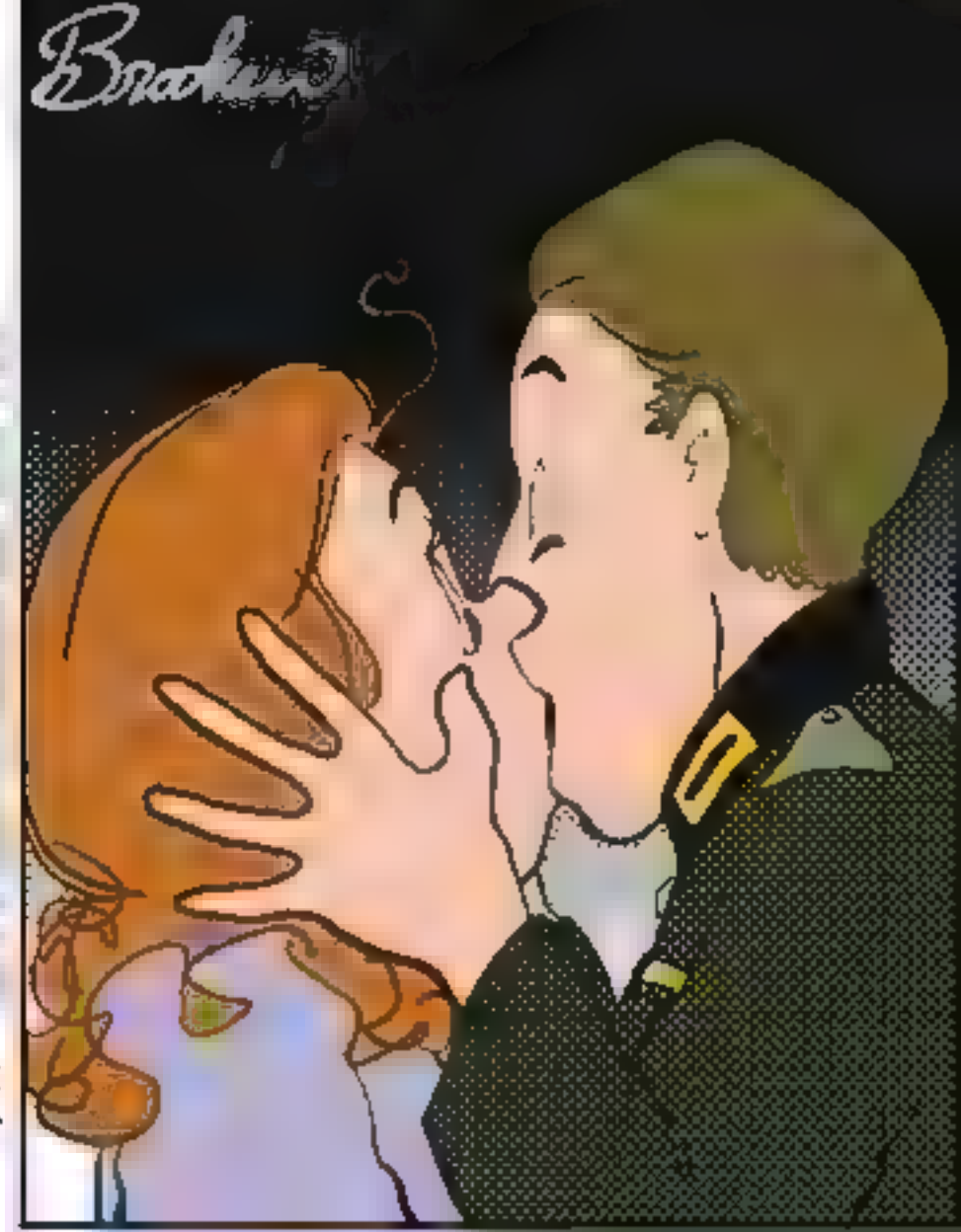
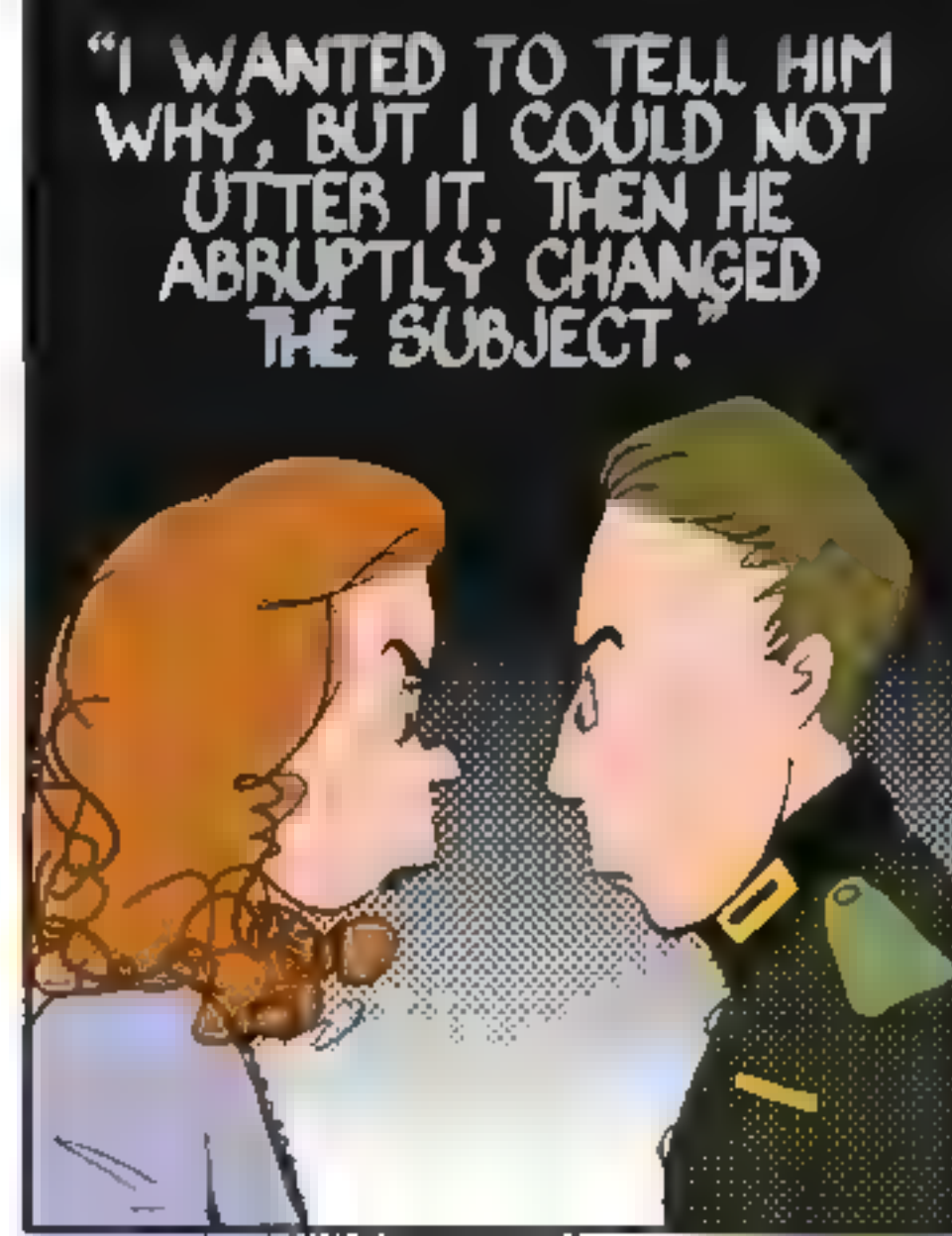
YOU WANT  
TO ENTERTAIN  
GERMANS.  
THAT IS MY  
OBJECTION.

YOU  
WEAR  
THEIR  
UNIFORM!!



NOT BY CHOICE.  
YOUR CHOICE IS  
CLEAR, AND IT IS  
MADE WITHOUT  
A SENSE OF  
HERITAGE OR  
LOYALTY.





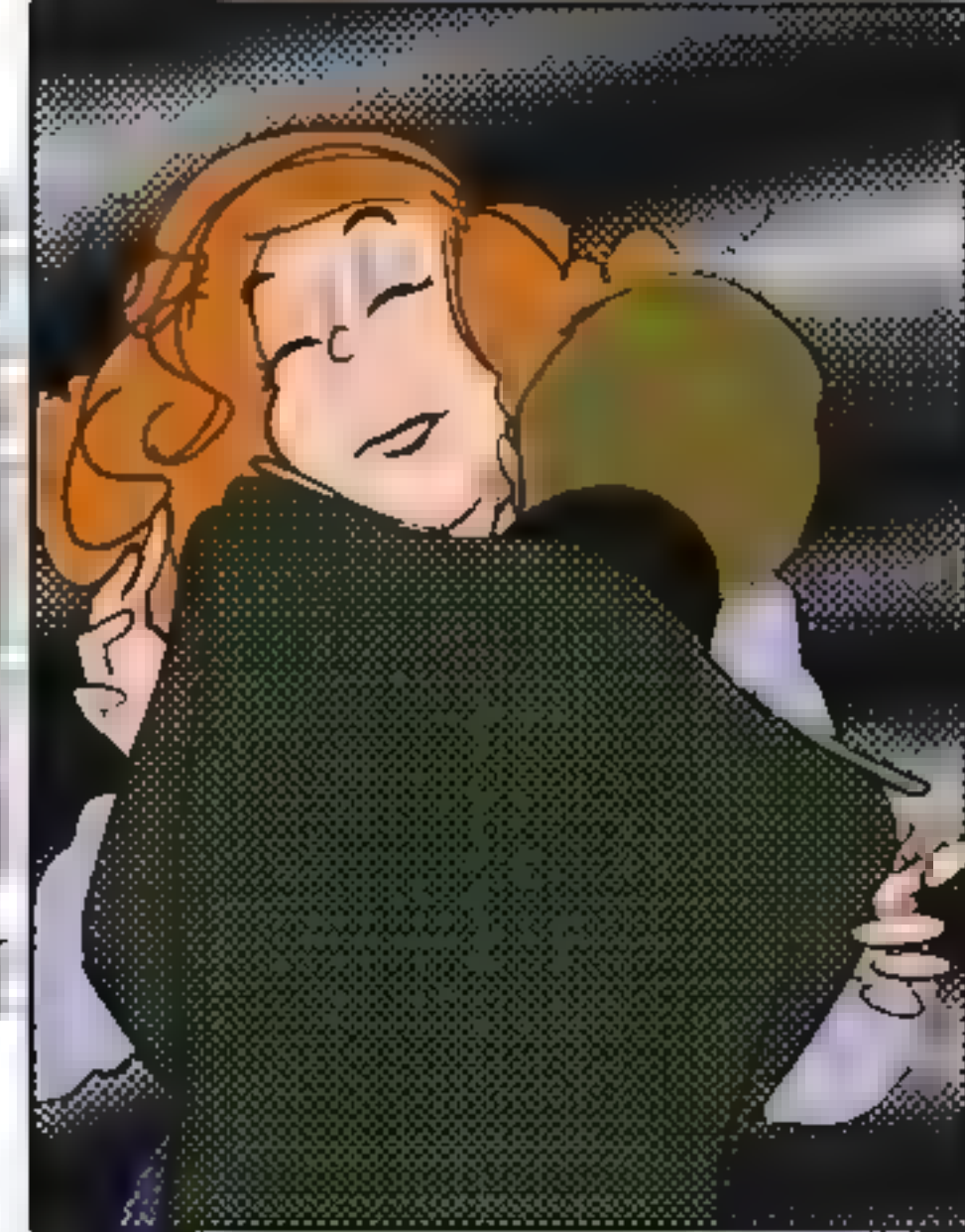
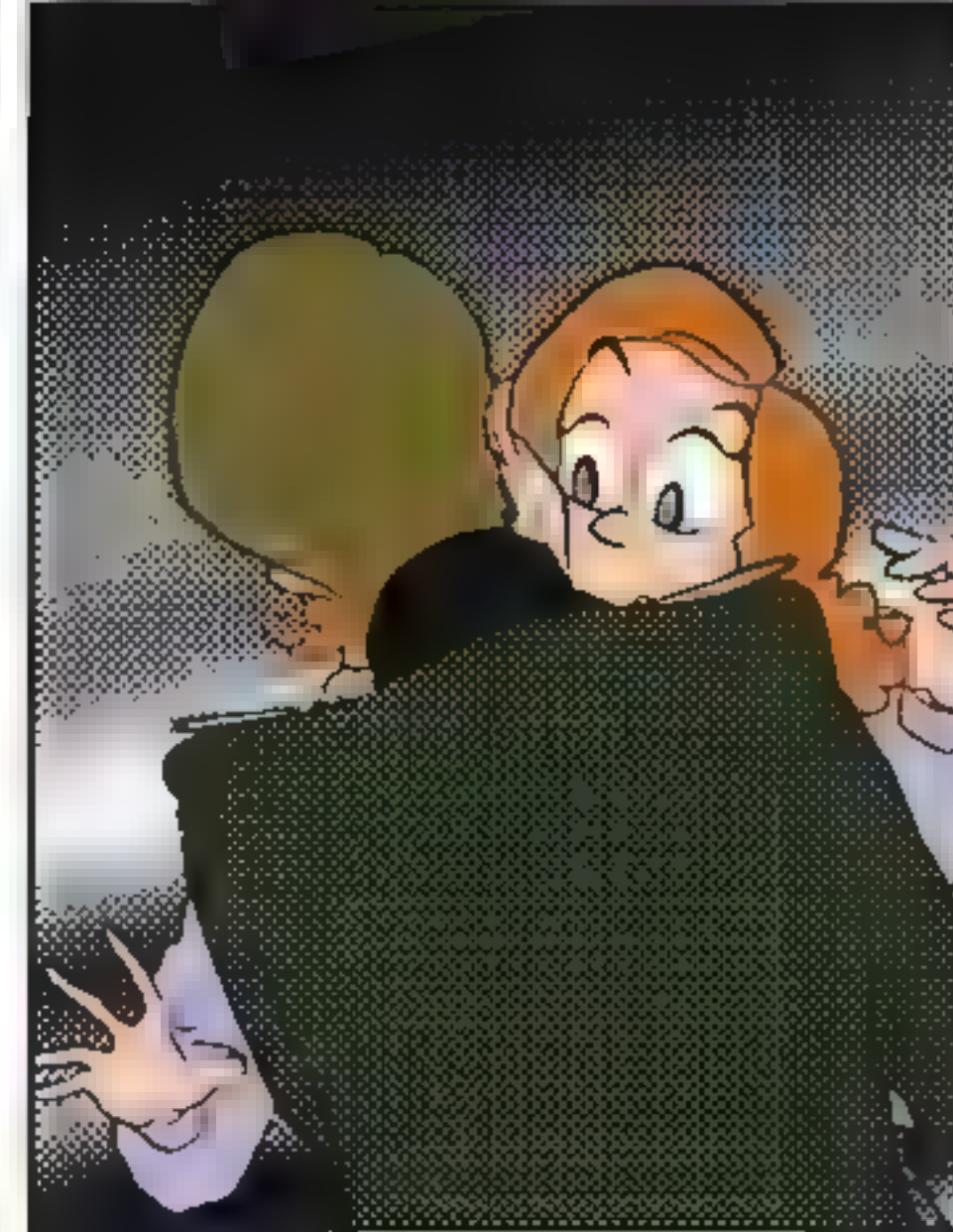


HOWDY HOLY DOODY!  
HE KISSED YOU?! WHERE?

ON MY LIPS,  
MY CHIN, MY  
EARS, ON MY  
NECK.  
...AFTER  
THAT I  
STOPPED  
KEEPING  
SCORE.



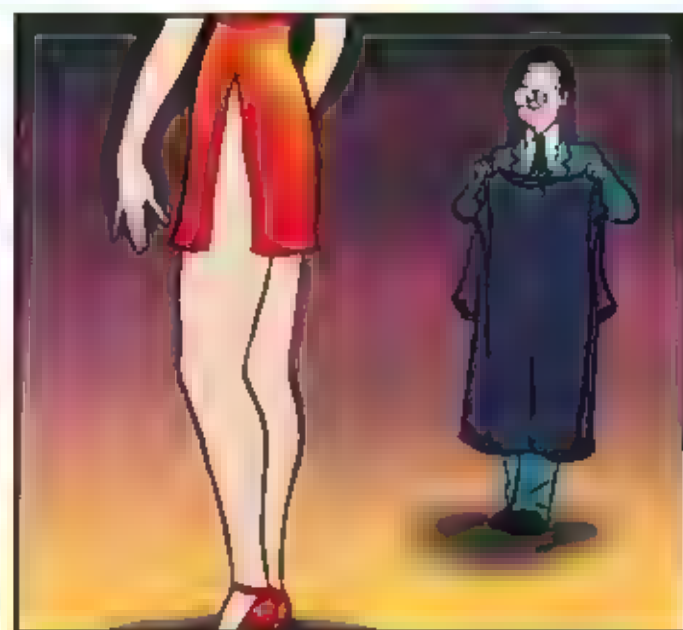
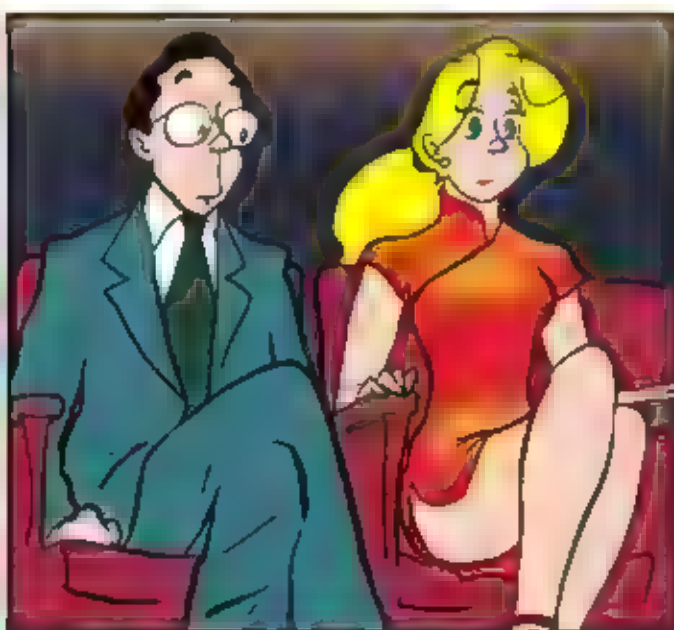
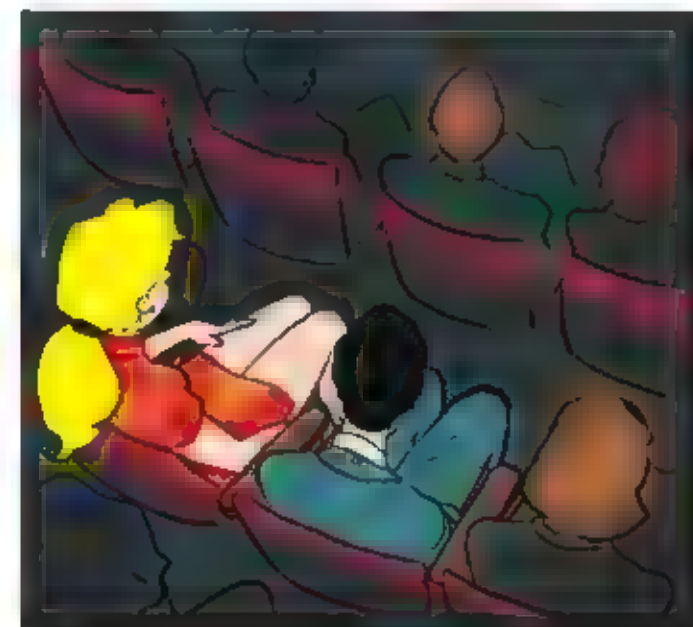
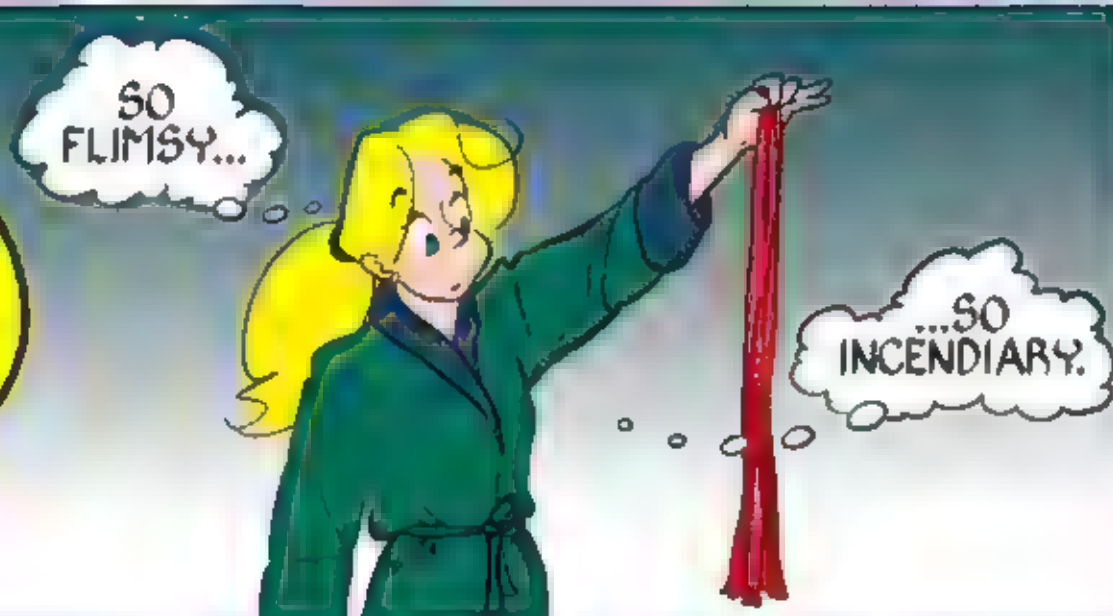
© Benke 12



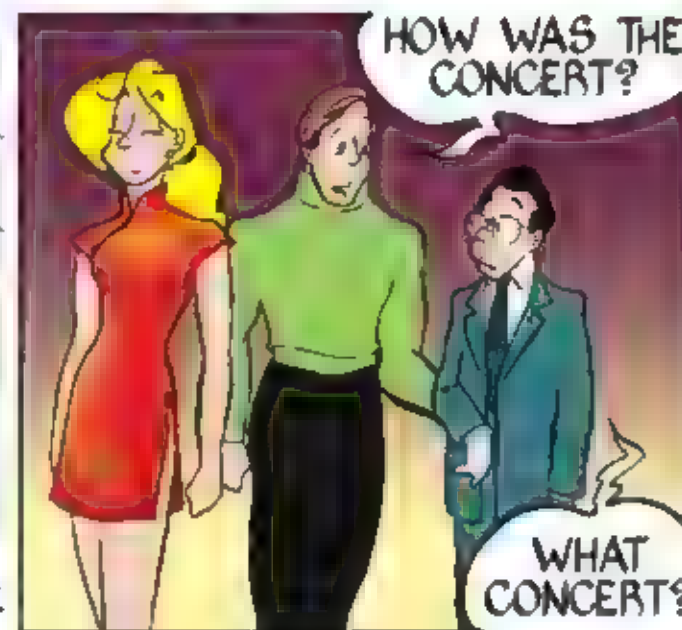




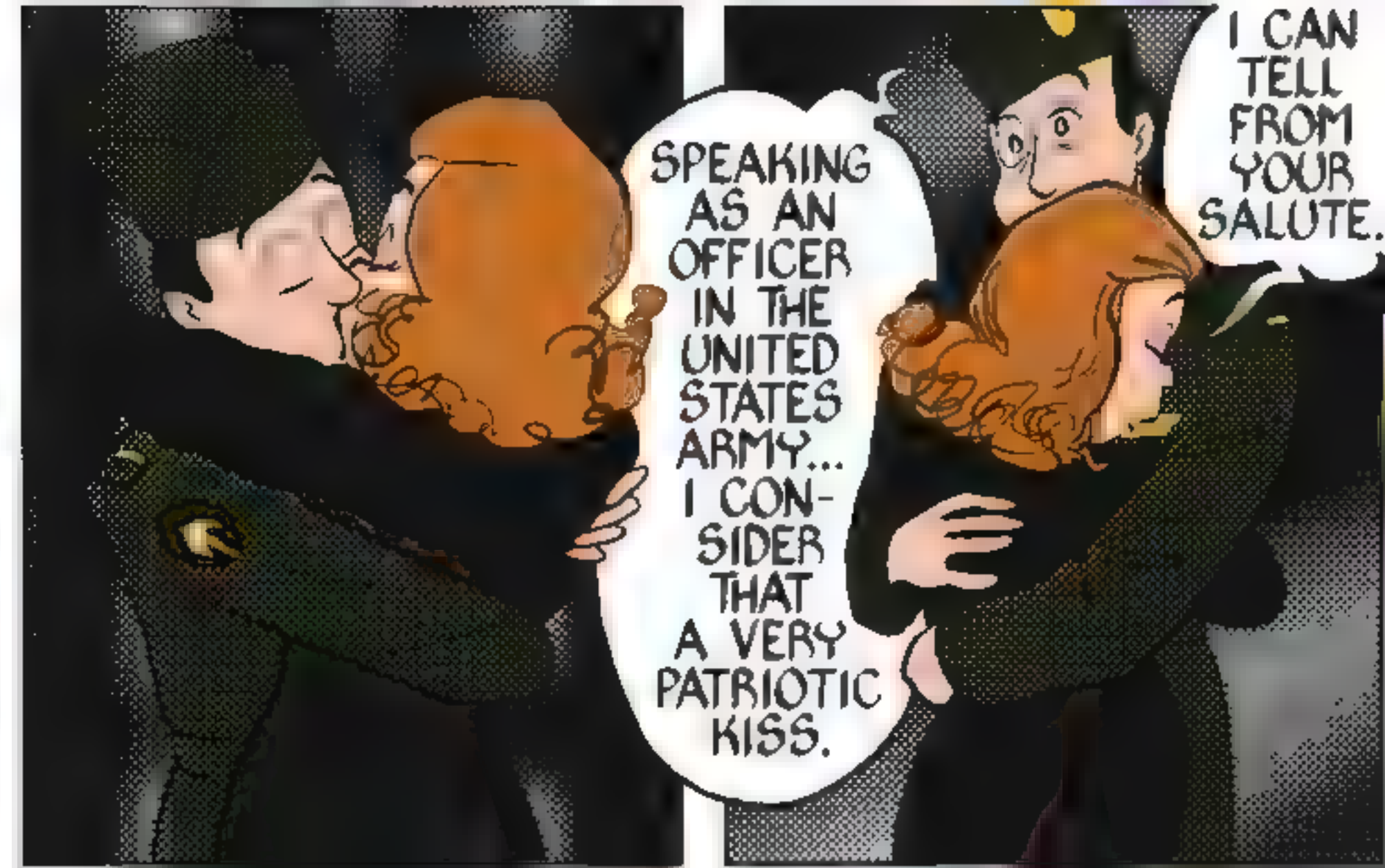




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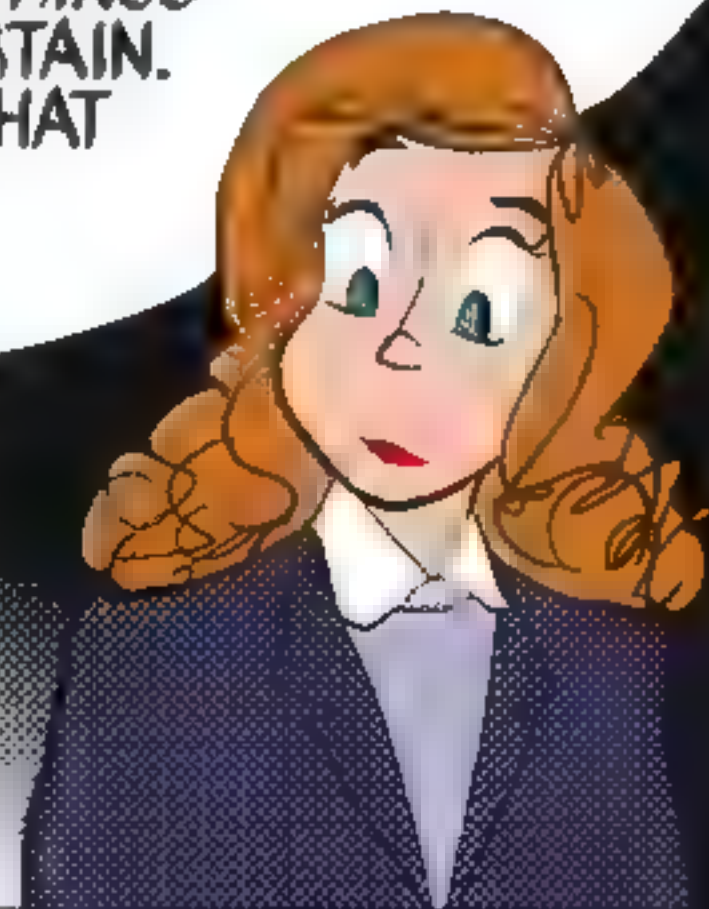








OKAY, EDIE...THERE'S A BIG CAMP SHOW THAT'S  
BEEN ARRANGED FOR AMERICAN AND BRITISH  
TROOPS TOGETHER. THE IDEA IS TO FORGE  
A GREATER BOND AMONG US.  
I PULLED SOME STRINGS  
FOR YOU TO ENTERTAIN.  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT  
YOU WANT  
TO DO?



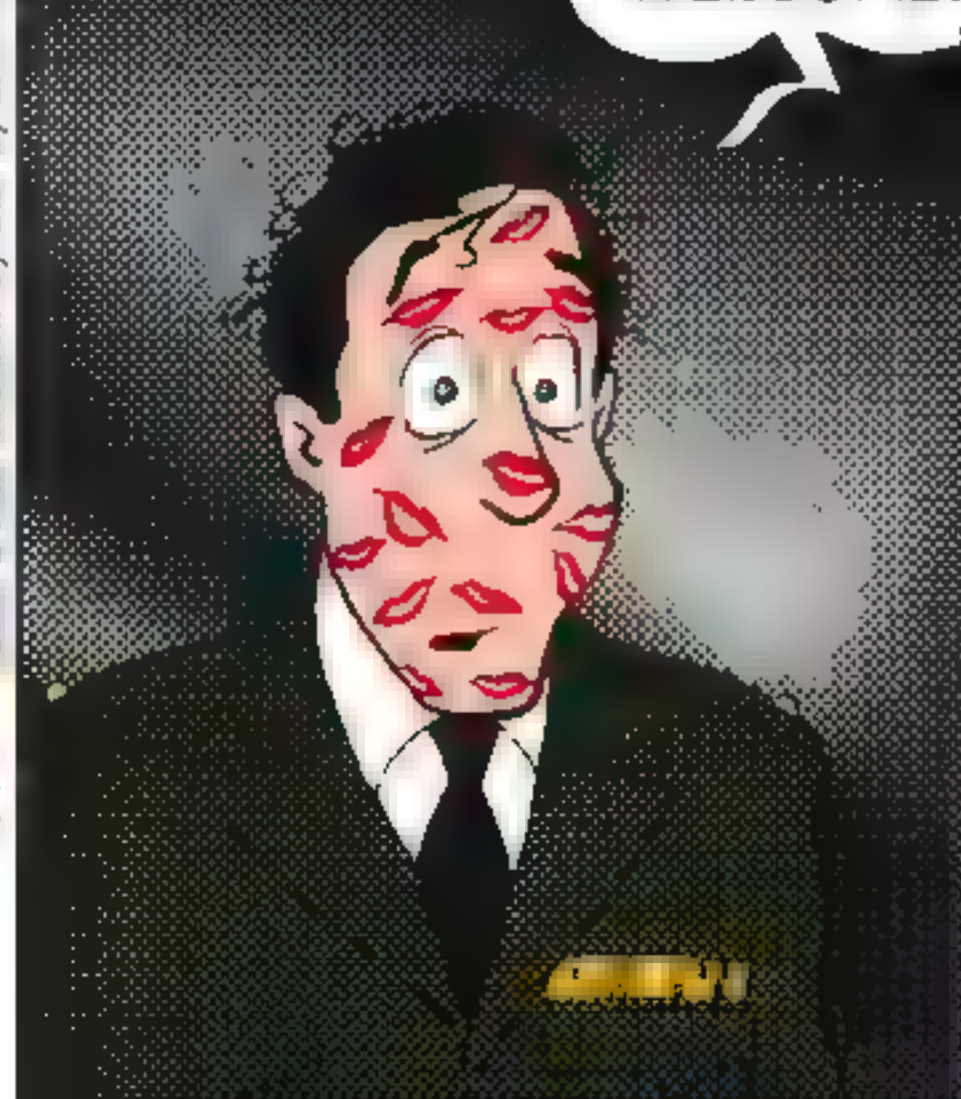
I KNEW  
IMMEDIATELY  
WHAT I WANTED  
TO DO.



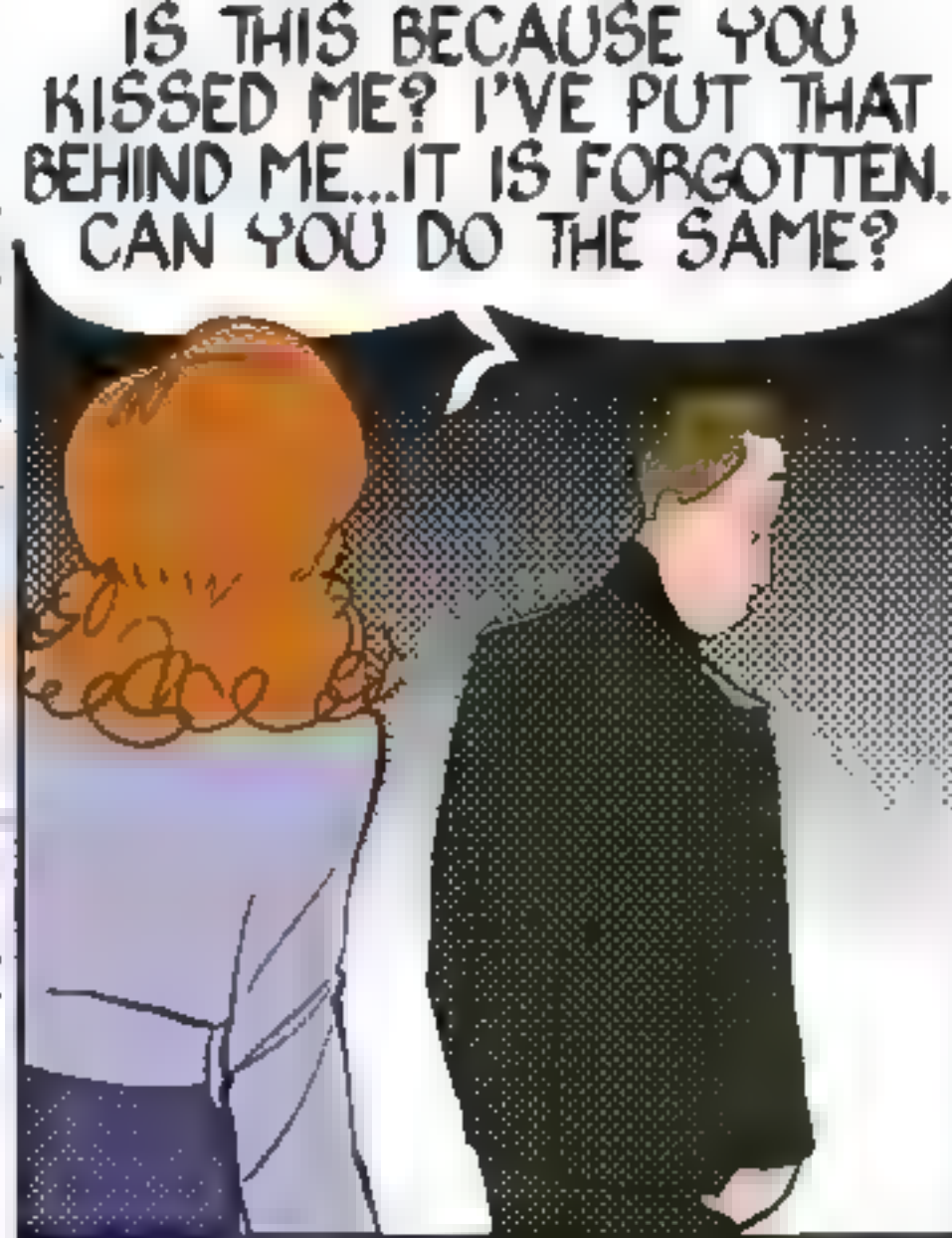
Brookew

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YOU'RE  
WELCOME.













THE NEXT TIME BILL DROVE ME TO THE CAMP, KIESL WAS OUT IN THE YARD, SMOKING.

I PRETTY MUCH HAD TO INTRODUCE THEM.

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LT. WILLIAM O'MALLEY, THIS IS LT. ...um...ah...

PETER KIESL.

YOUR NAME IS PETER?

DID YOU NOT KNOW?

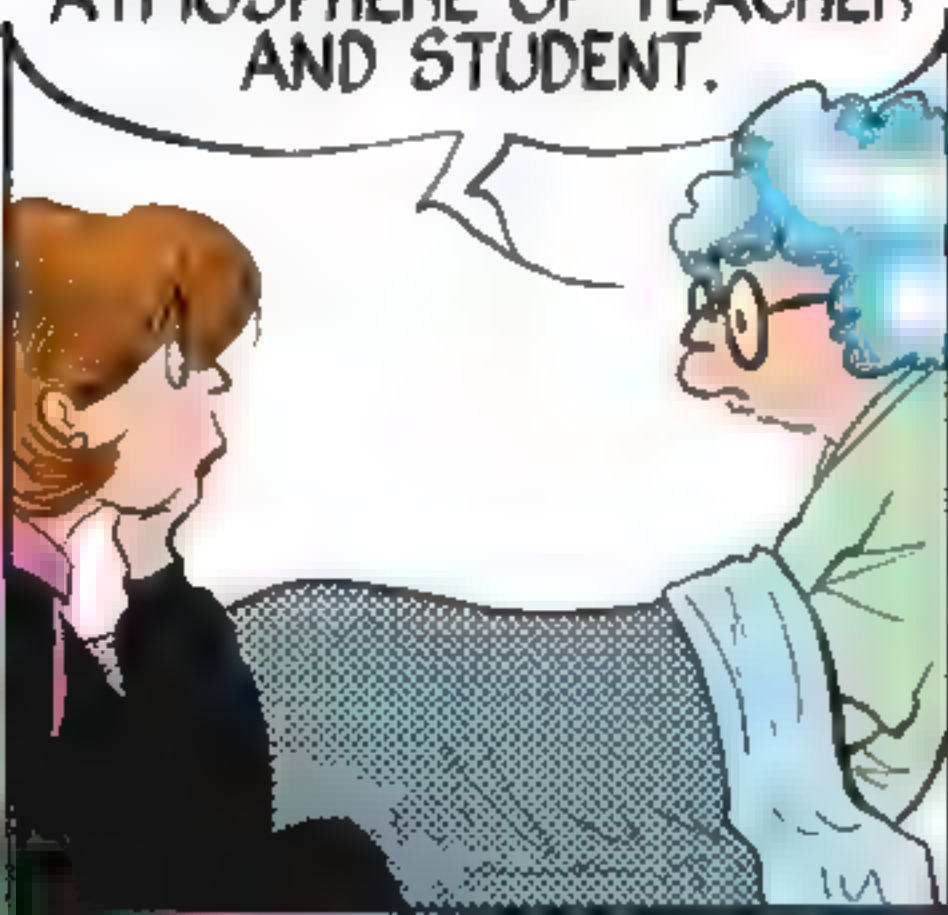
YOU PERMITTED A MAN WHOSE CHRISTIAN NAME YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW TO KISS YOUR NECK?

JUST FOR YOUR FUTURE REFERENCE, MY GIVEN NAMES ARE PETER JOHANN MARTIN FRANZ.

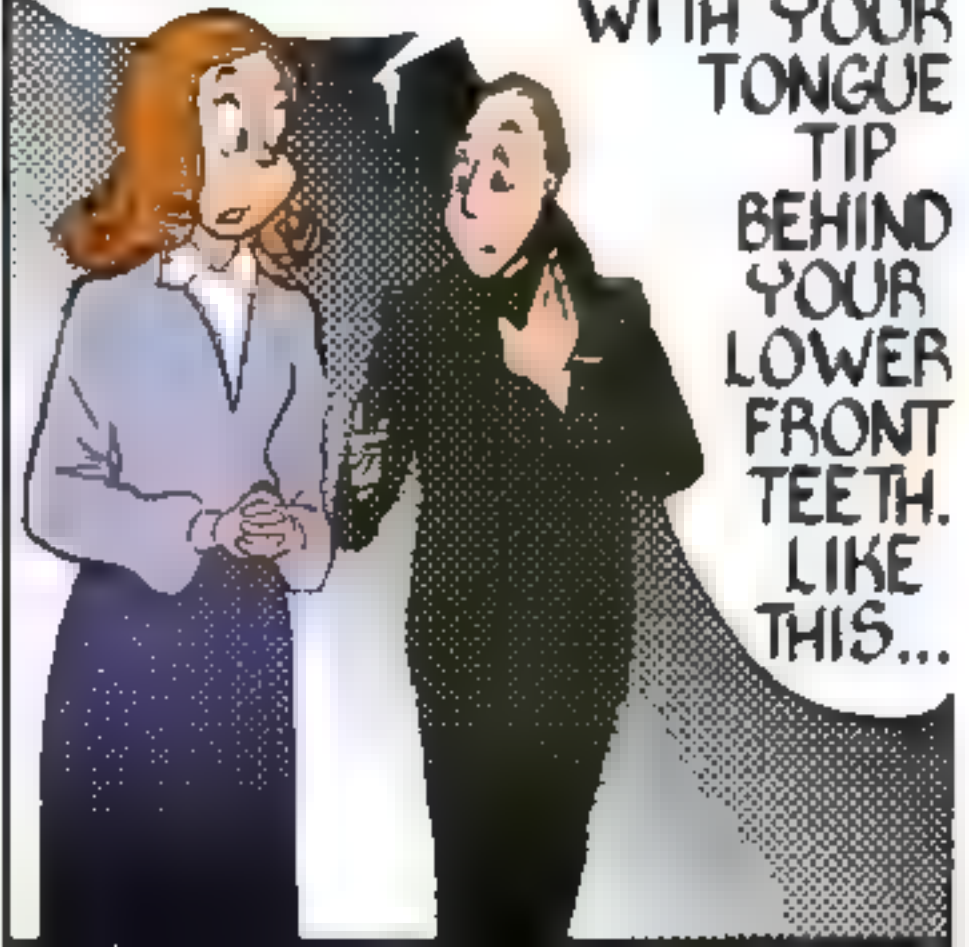
EVIDENTLY I ALLOWED FOUR MEN TO KISS MY NECK.



WE BEGAN MY LESSONS  
THAT DAY...AND TO KIESL'S  
CREDIT, HE MAINTAINED  
A VERY PROFESSIONAL  
ATMOSPHERE OF TEACHER  
AND STUDENT.

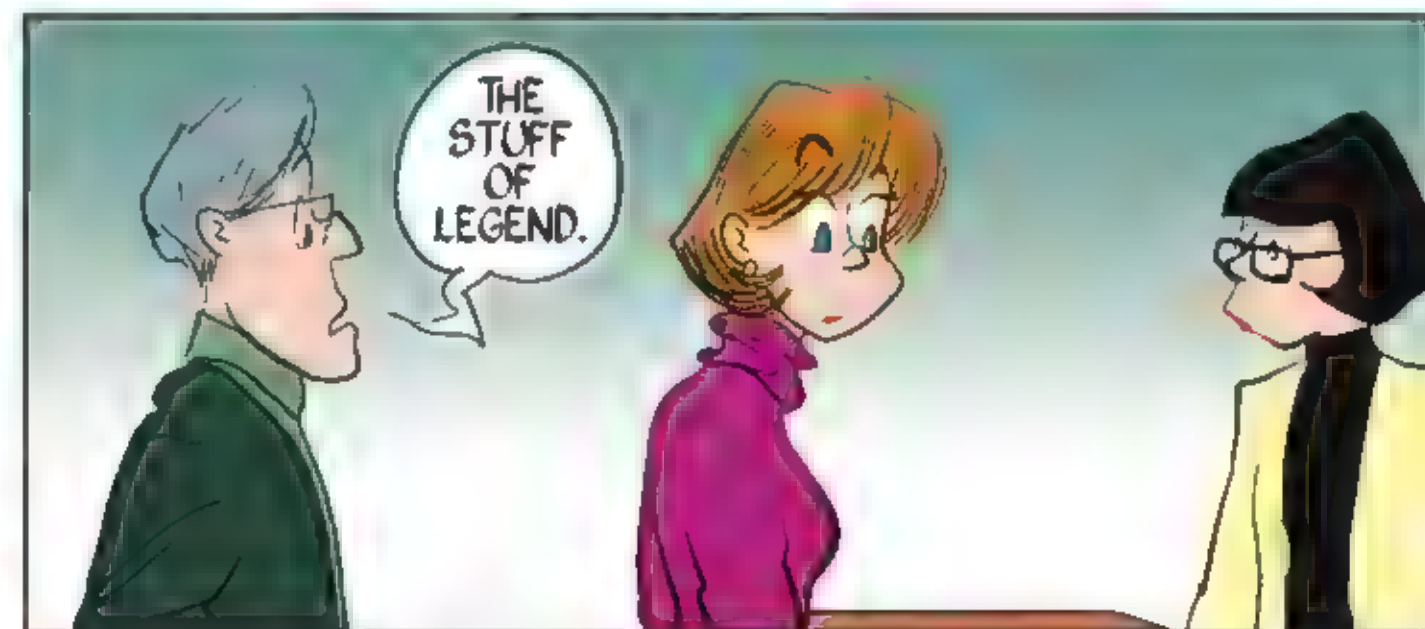
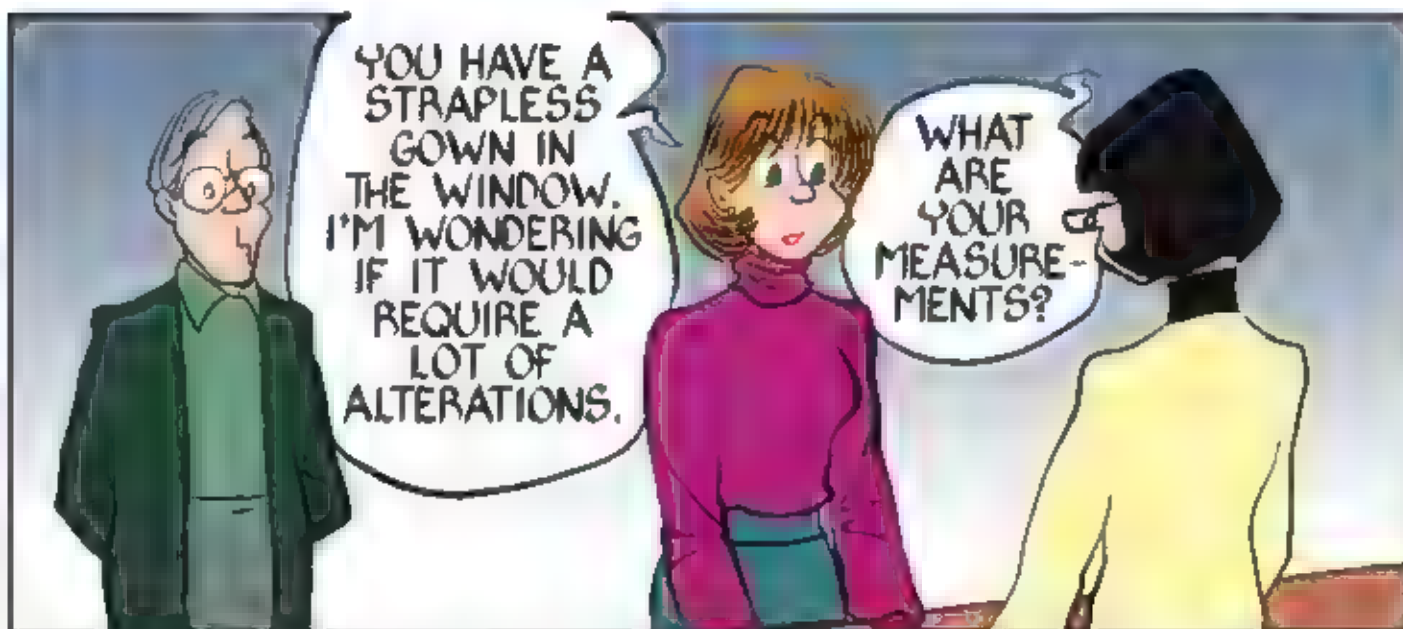


NO, NO...ABSOLUTELY NOT!  
YOUR SOUND IS TOO BRIGHT!  
YOUR MOUTH IS TOO WIDE!  
KEEP YOUR LIPS VERTICAL,  
WITH YOUR  
TONGUE  
TIP  
BEHIND  
YOUR  
LOWER  
FRONT  
TEETH.  
LIKE  
THIS...



now...  
sing that  
phrase  
again.

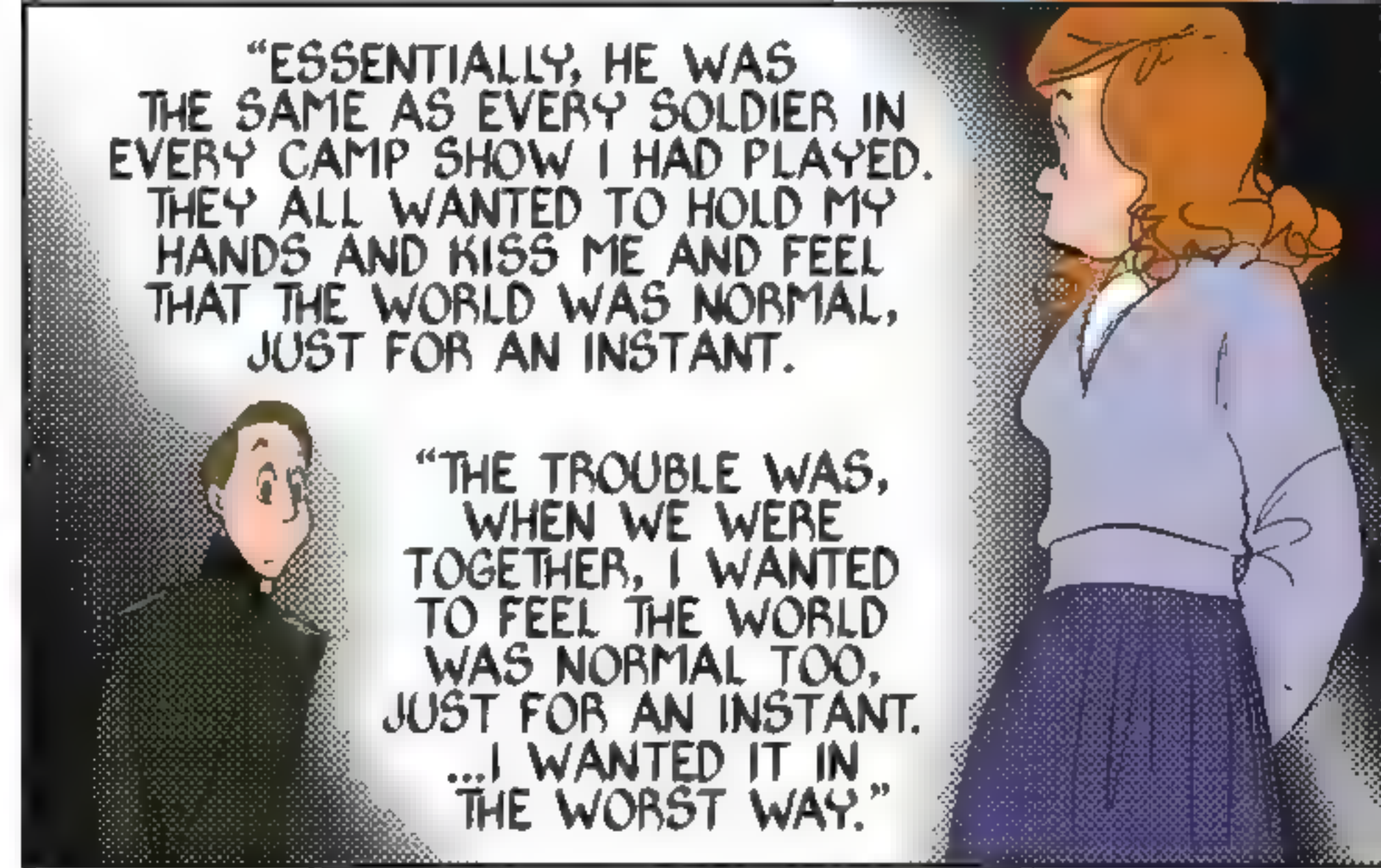




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BILL, YOU'VE BEEN KISSED  
BY A LOT OF WOMEN.

UM...  
KISSED?  
YES.  
...A  
FEW.

DO YOU  
RANK THEM?  
YOU KNOW,  
FOR  
QUALITY?  
...BEST TO  
WORST?

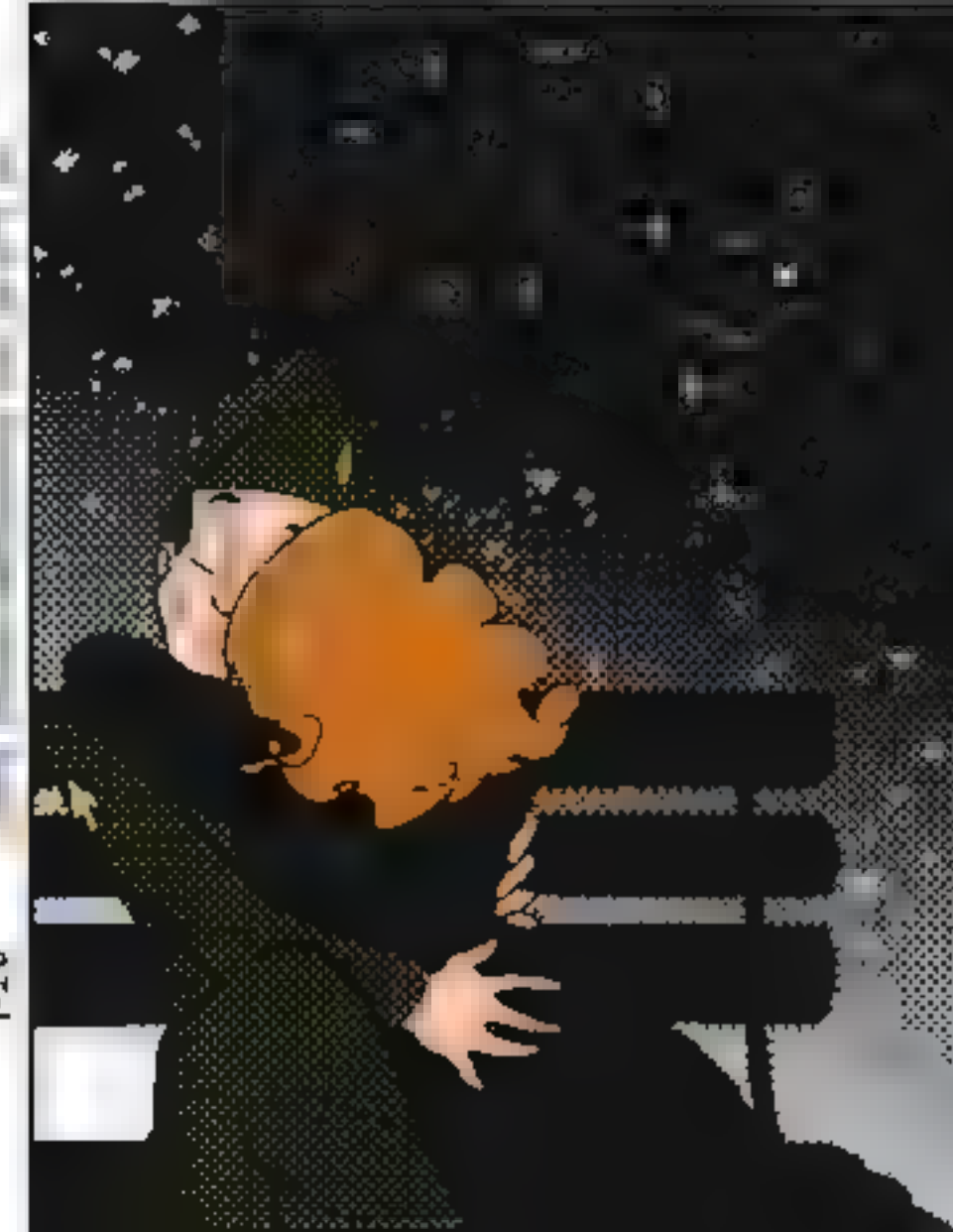
I'D NEVER DO THAT.  
IT WOULD BE  
UNGENTLEMANLY.



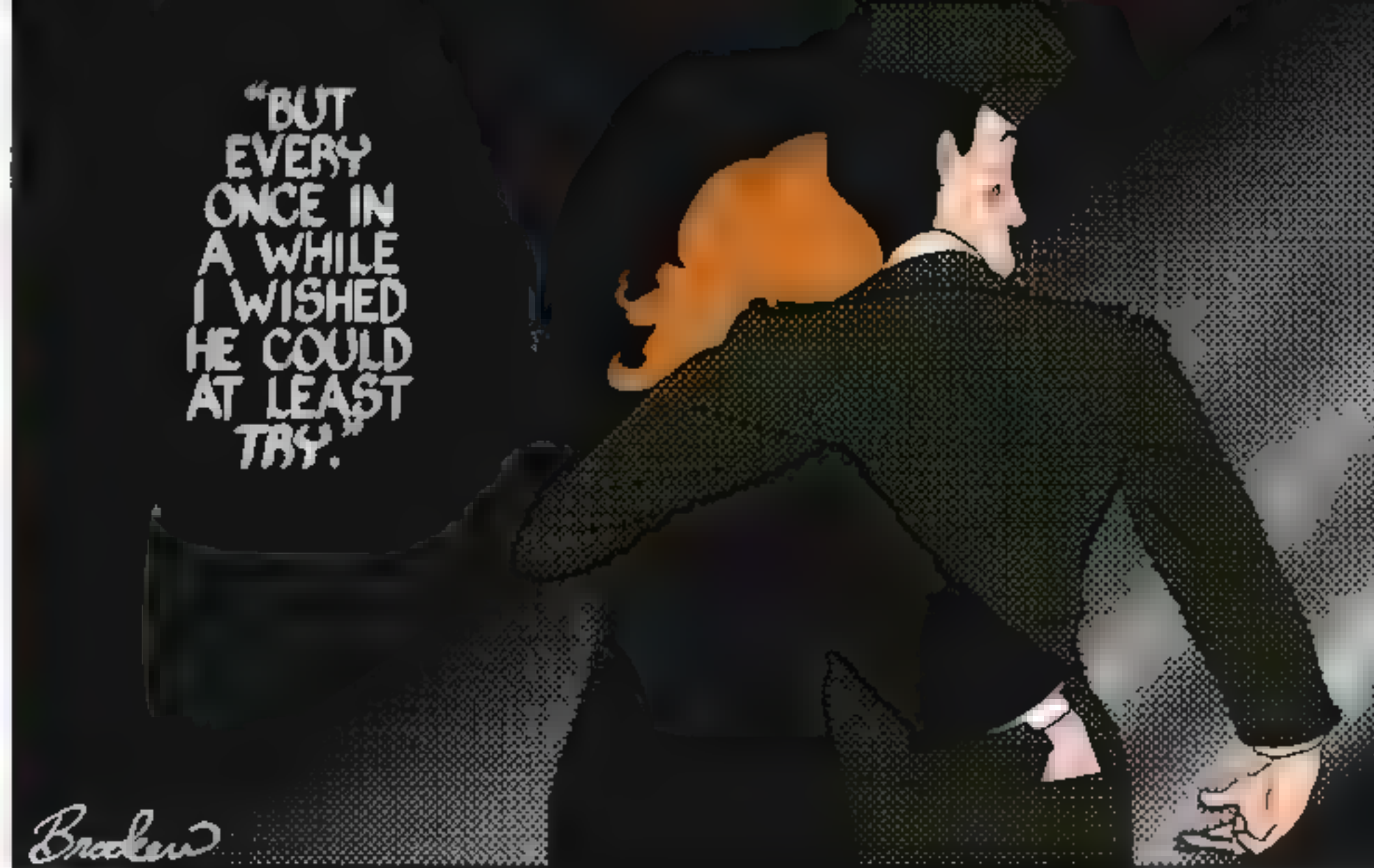
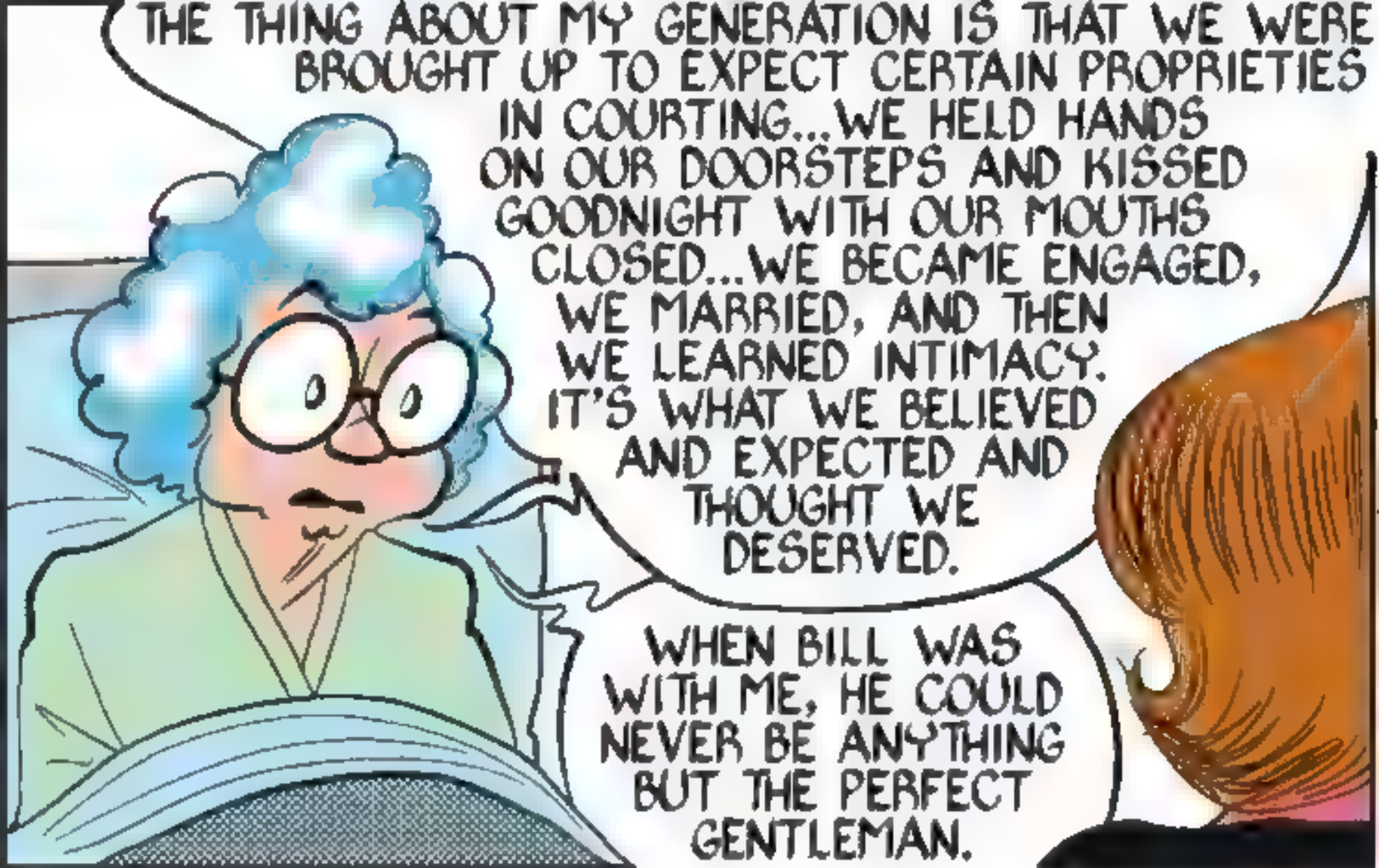
OF COURSE, JUST BETWEEN  
ME AND YOU, YOU'RE  
WAY AHEAD OF  
THE PACK.



1-20









"THEN, ONE AFTERNOON, BILL WAS DRIVING ME TO THE CAMP WHEN HE DROPPED A BOMB IN MY LAP."

AFTER TODAY, YOU'RE NOT COMING TO THIS CAMP AGAIN.

WHY NOT?!

THEY FEEL YOU'RE NO LONGER GETTING USEFUL INFORMATION FROM THESE GUYS. ...AND NEW PRISONERS ARE BEING INTERROGATED AT A NEW ENTRY POINT. SO I'LL BE TAKING YOU THERE.

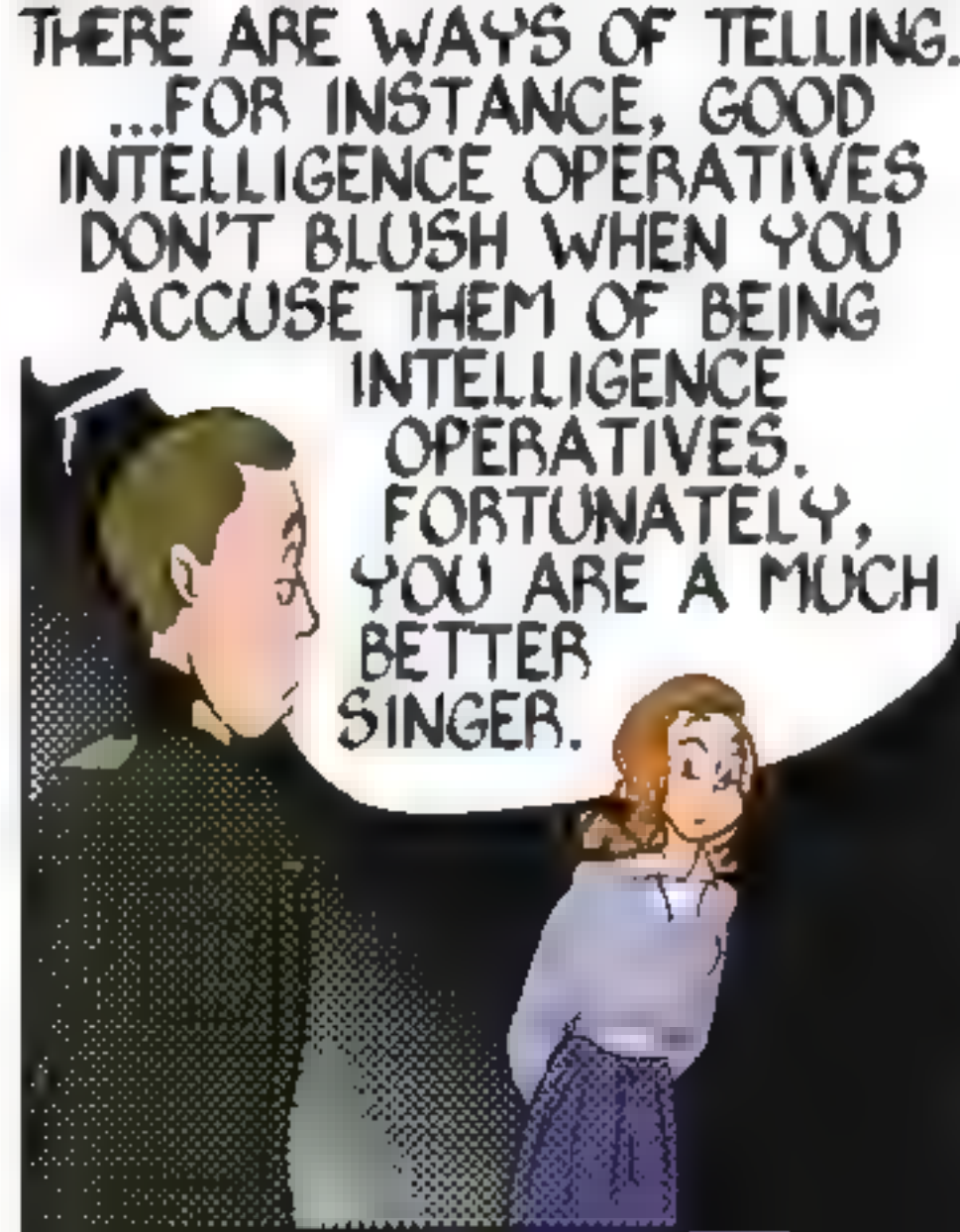
"WHEN I TOLD KIESL, HIS REACTION WAS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED."

THEN WE WILL HAVE TO TELL YOUR MASTERS WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR.

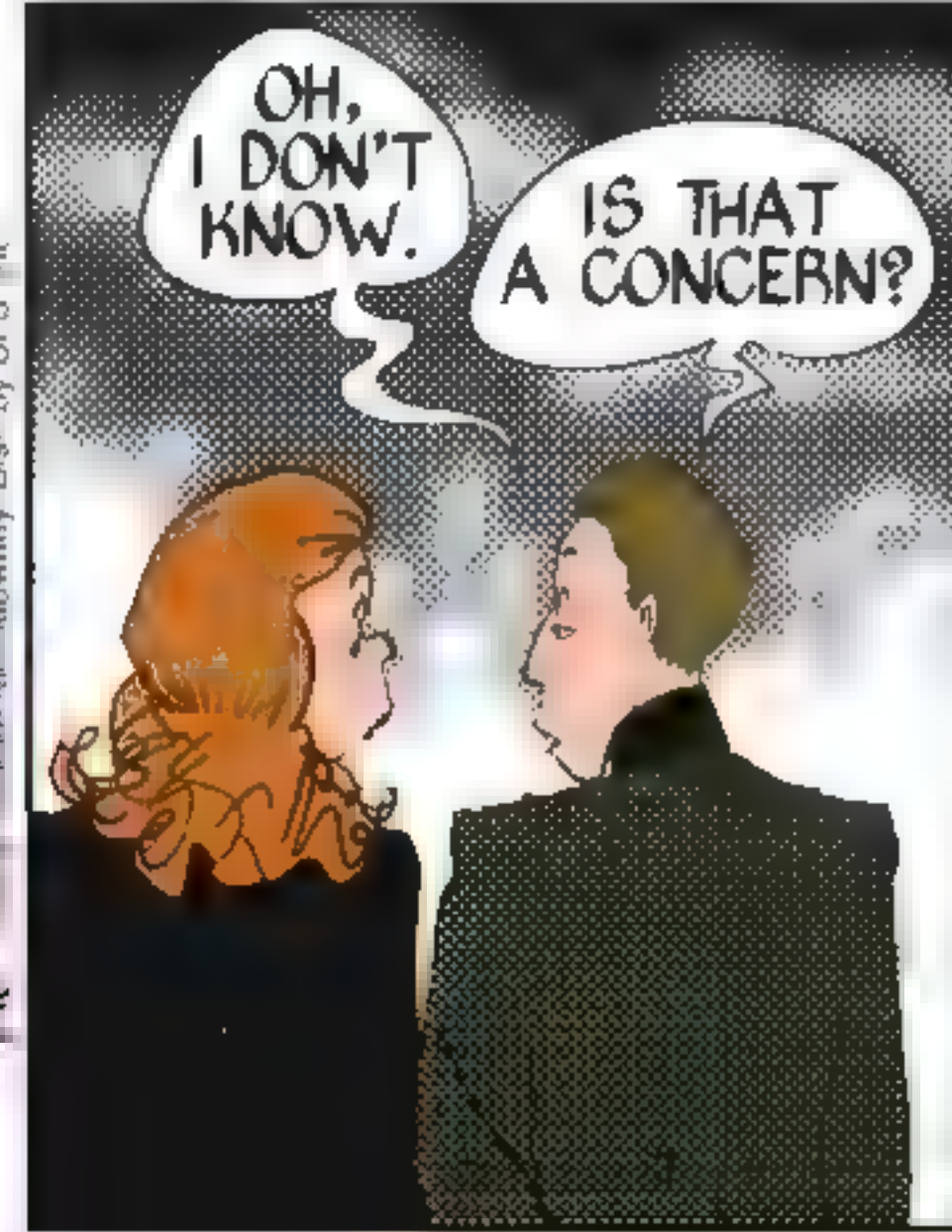
MY...

...MASTERS?











# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

MY OWN SPECIES EVOLVED ON A VERY  
WARLIKE PLANET...  
...XENOPHOBIC,  
REACTIONARY,  
WITH AN  
ETHNOCENTRIC,  
FUNDAMENTALIST  
ZEAL TO CLEANSE  
THE UNIVERSE OF  
ALL BUT OUR  
OWN KIND.



IN TIME THIS ZEAL  
FOCUSED ON A HIGHLY  
CIVILIZED  
WORLD IN  
A NEIGH-  
BORING  
STAR  
SYSTEM.



UPON IT LIVED A RACE OF BEINGS WHO HAD  
PROGRESSED BEYOND CONFLICT AND CONQUEST  
TO A PHILOSOPHY OF STRENGTH THROUGH  
PEACEFUL EXAMPLE. IT WAS THEIR BELIEF  
THAT THEIR IMAGE WOULD DRAW ALL  
WHO BEHELD THEM ONTO A HIGHER  
PLANE OF BEING...AND VERILY THEY  
ARRIVED ON OUR WORLD, AND WE  
SAW THEIR FACES AND HEARD  
THEIR WORDS, AND WE KNEW  
WE WERE IN THE PRESENCE OF  
GREATNESS.



AND WE BADE THEM WELCOME  
WITH OUTSTRETCHED HANDS.



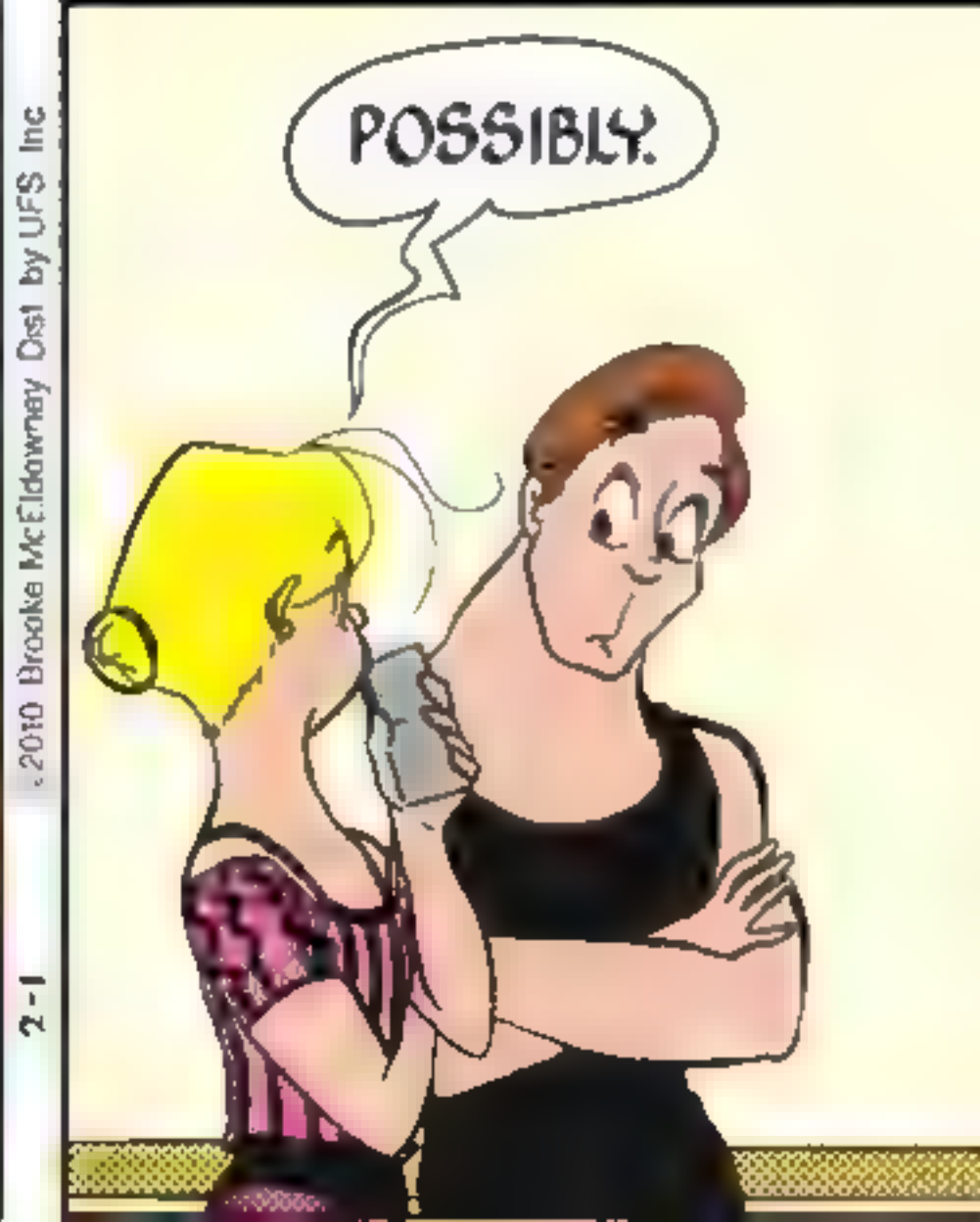
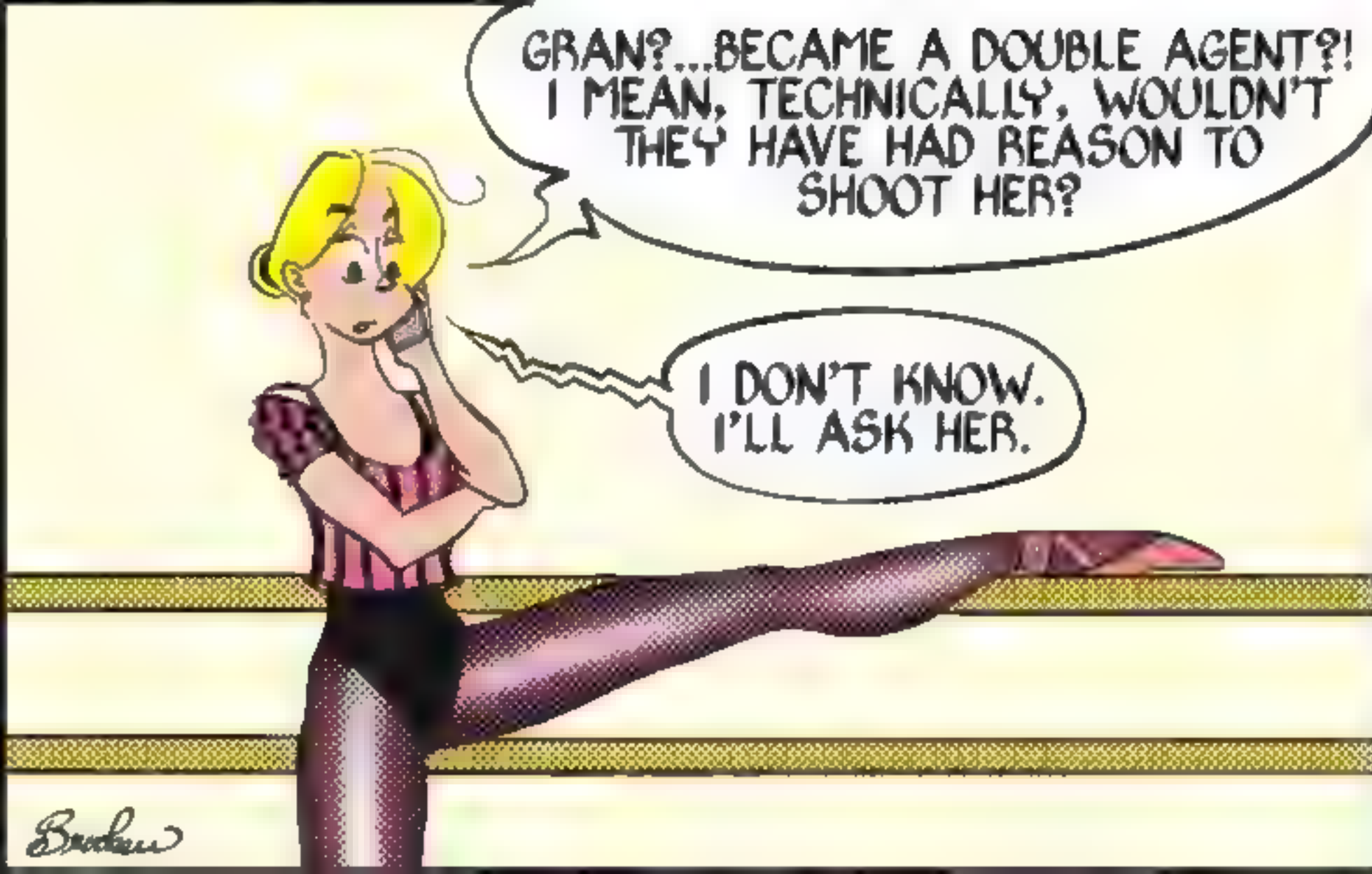
AND DID  
THESE BEINGS  
CONTRIBUTE  
TO YOUR  
CULTURE?

INDEED  
THEY  
DID.



THEY ARE  
ESPECIALLY  
GOOD WITH  
BECHAMEL  
SAUCE,  
AND JUST  
A HINT OF  
NUTMEG.







"KIESL WAS RIGHT. WHEN BILL WENT UP HIS CHAIN OF COMMAND WITH THE LITTLE BIT OF NEW INTELLIGENCE I PASSED TO HIM, THEY IMMEDIATELY EXTENDED MY SCHEDULE OF CONCERTS AT THE CAMP. BUT STILL... IT BOTHERED ME."

I HAVE TO KNOW IF THAT INFORMATION YOU GAVE ME IS TRUE.

IT WAS A FEW FACTS ABOUT A BRIDGE. NOTHING VITALLY IMPORTANT.

BUT WAS IT FACTUAL?

I WOULD NOT PERMIT YOU TO BE A TRAITOR...

THEREFORE I HAVE TAKEN IT UPON MYSELF TO BE THE TRAITOR.

...NOR SUBJECT YOU TO RISK FOR AN INSTANT.

I AM NOT EXCEEDINGLY BUSY. I BELIEVE I HAVE THE TIME.



I DON'T WANT YOU  
TO BE LABELED A  
TRAITOR.

BEING A TRAITOR  
SEEMS UGLY  
ONLY TO THE  
EXTENT THAT  
WINNING THE  
WAR SEEMS  
GLORIOUS.  
...ONCE YOU  
LOOK AT THE  
POLITICIANS  
FOR WHOM WE  
WOULD WIN IT,  
THE IDEA OF  
ENDING THE  
WAR BECOMES  
FAR MORE  
APPEALING.



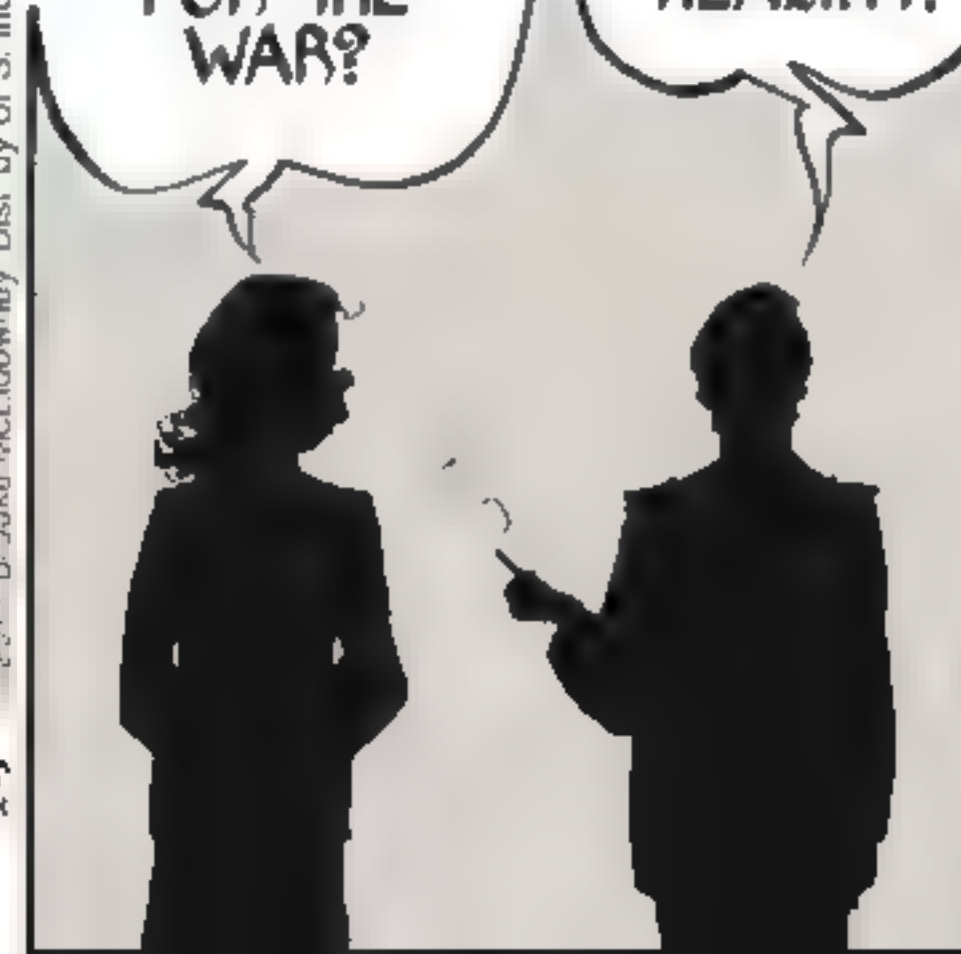
...HAVE A  
CIGARETTE?  
DO YOU  
SMOKE?

IT  
CAN'T  
BE  
HEALTHY.



DON'T  
YOU FEEL  
ANYTHING  
FOR THE  
WAR?

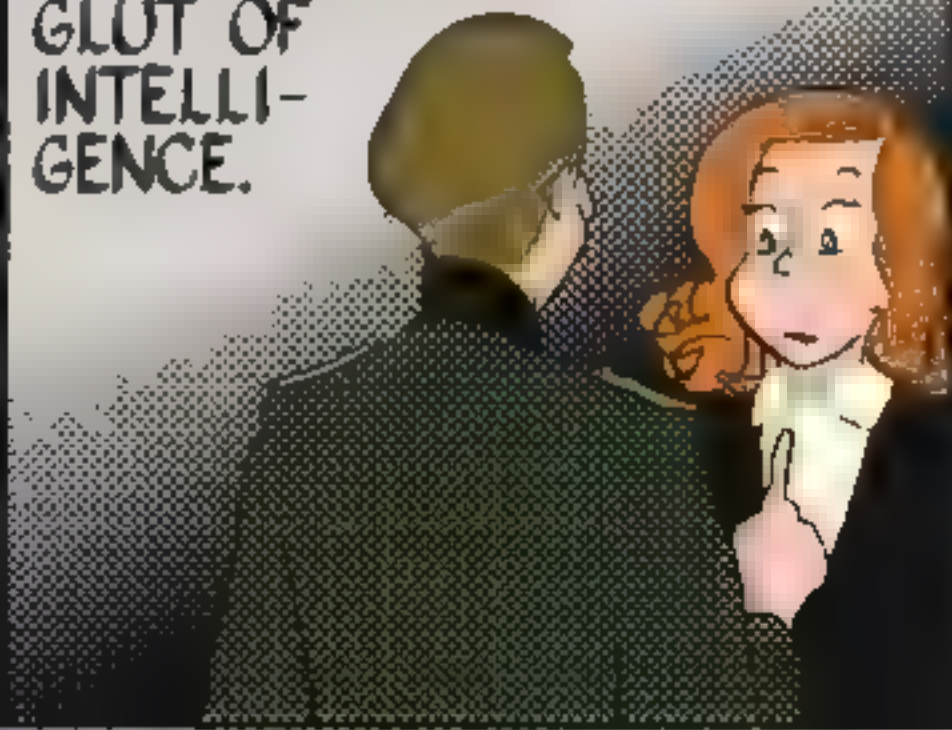
IT  
CAN'T  
BE  
HEALTHY.



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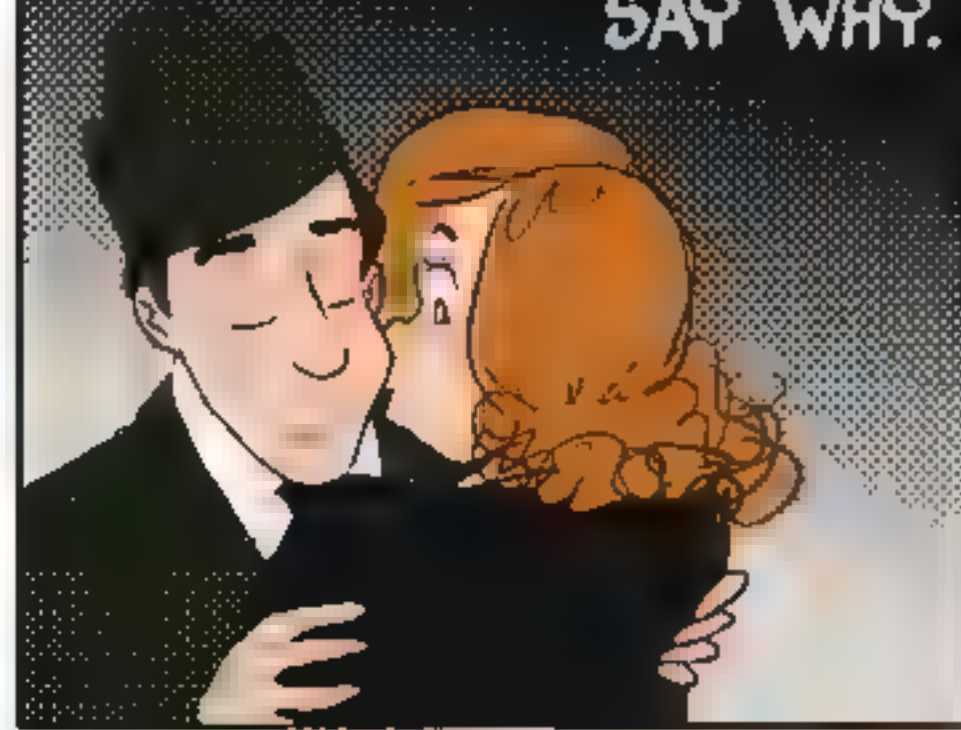
"KIESL WAS VERY CANNY ABOUT HOW MUCH INFORMATION HE LET ME TAKE OUT, AND HOW OFTEN. HE DIDN'T WANT THE OSS TO BECOME DUBIOUS OVER A SUDDEN GLUT OF INTELLIGENCE."



"HE STUCK TO GEOGRAPHICAL DETAILS...BUILDINGS AND BRIDGES...ITEMS HE LEARNED EAVESDROPPING ON OTHER SOLDIERS...THINGS ALLIED RECONNAISSANCE COULD VERIFY."



"I WAS GLAD EVERYTHING I REPORTED WAS TRUE, WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS USEFUL. BILL WAS SO PROUD OF ME THAT I FELT RATHER GUILTY...ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T EXACTLY SAY WHY."



"MEANWHILE, AMIDST ALL THIS TREASON AT ONE END AND FIBBING AT THE OTHER, KIESL TAUGHT ME HOW TO SING. AND HE SEEMED PROUD OF ME TOO."





I WILL BE SINGING TWO NUMBERS AT THIS CAMP SHOW...THE FIRST WILL BE SOMETHING BY COLE PORTER OR IRVING BERLIN, I GUESS. BUT I WANT THE SECOND ONE TO BE CLASSICAL.



DO YOU THINK I'M READY?

I HAVE A SONG. IT'S MODERN. I BOUGHT IT IN PARIS AND HAD IT WITH ME WHEN I WAS CAPTURED. I DID NOT WANT TO LOSE IT SO I STRAPPED IT TO MY LEG.



WHAT IS IT?

"C."

*Broken*



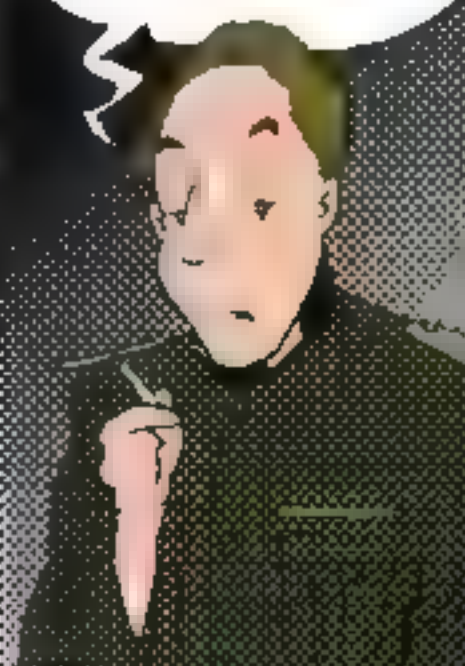
"C."?

"C."



ANY OTHER LETTER OF THE ALPHABET?

IT IS THE ONLY ONE YOU'LL EVER NEED.





"C." IS A KIND OF TORCH SONG  
TO AN ABANDONED FRANCE.  
THE MUSIC WAS WRITTEN  
BY FRANCIS POULENC  
TO A POEM OF LOUIS  
ARAGON...AND HAS  
BEEN HEARD ONLY  
SINCE THE  
OCCUPATION.  
IT IS DECEPTIVELY  
QUIET, INTENSE  
AND POWERFUL.

I DON'T  
KNOW.

LEARN  
IT AND  
SING  
IT.

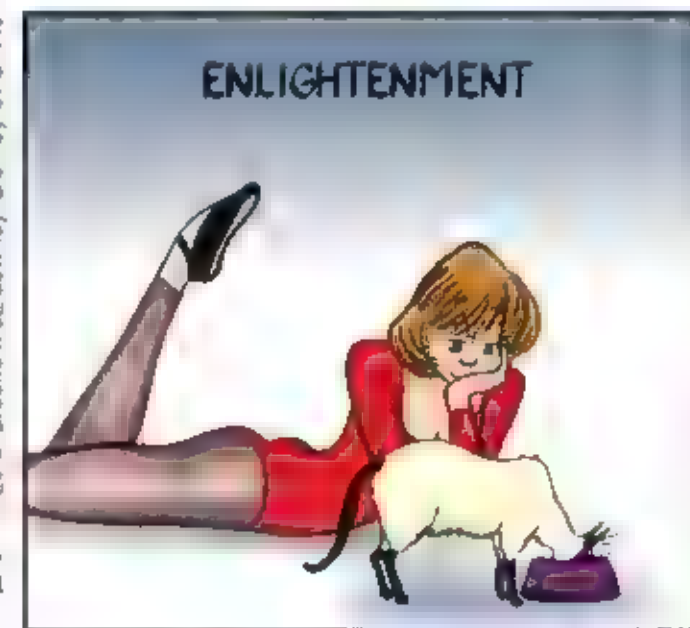
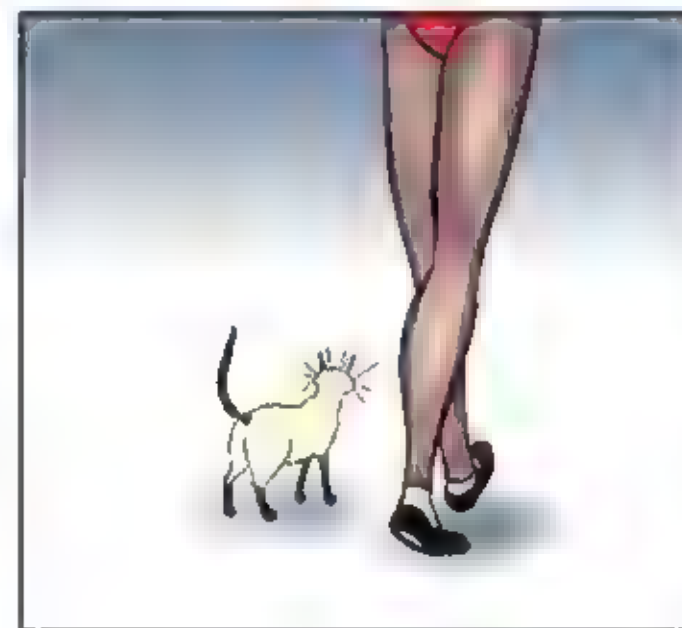
BUT A FRENCH  
ART SONG?...  
...AT A CAMP  
SHOW?

SING IT.

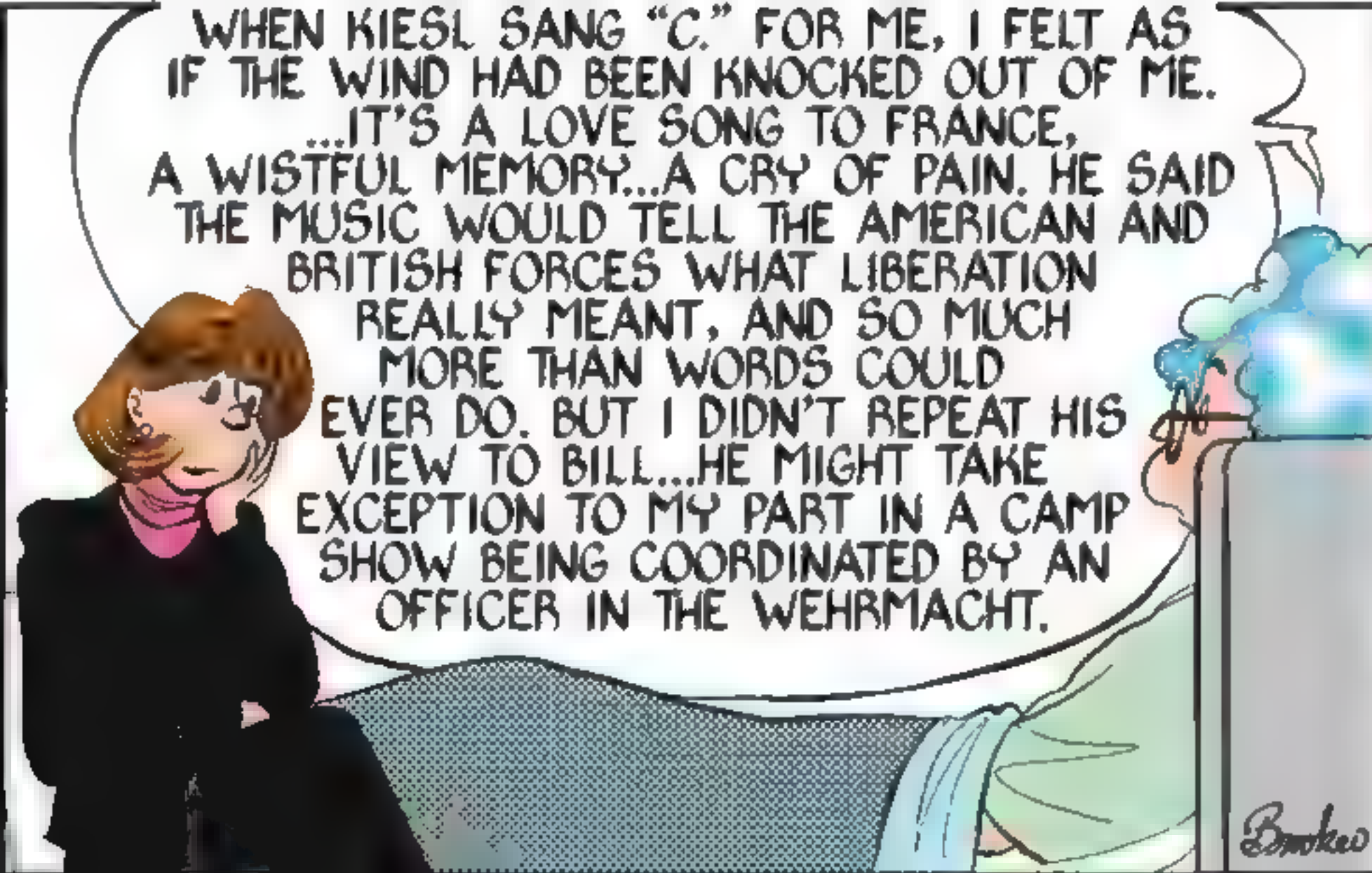
BUT...

SING IT.

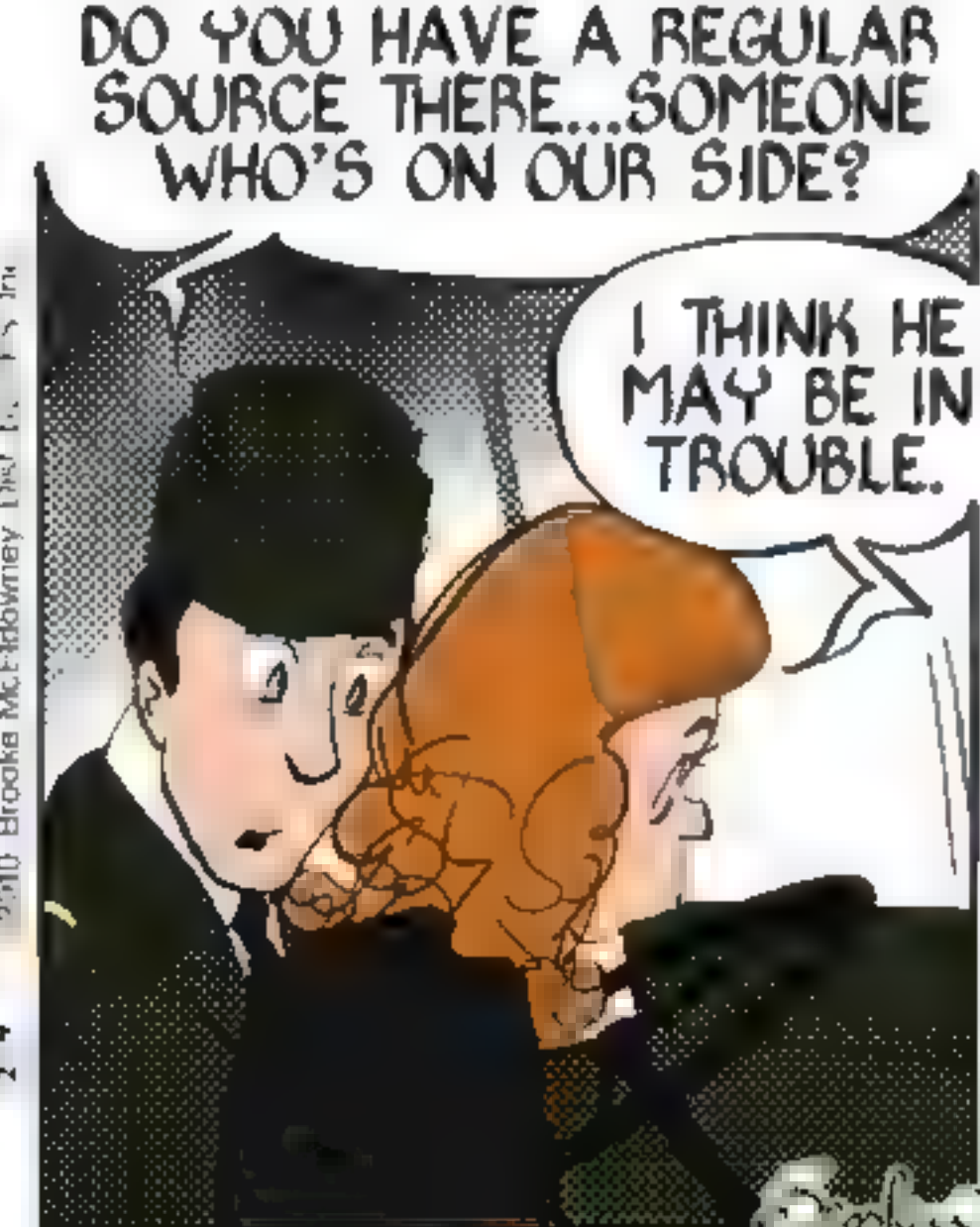
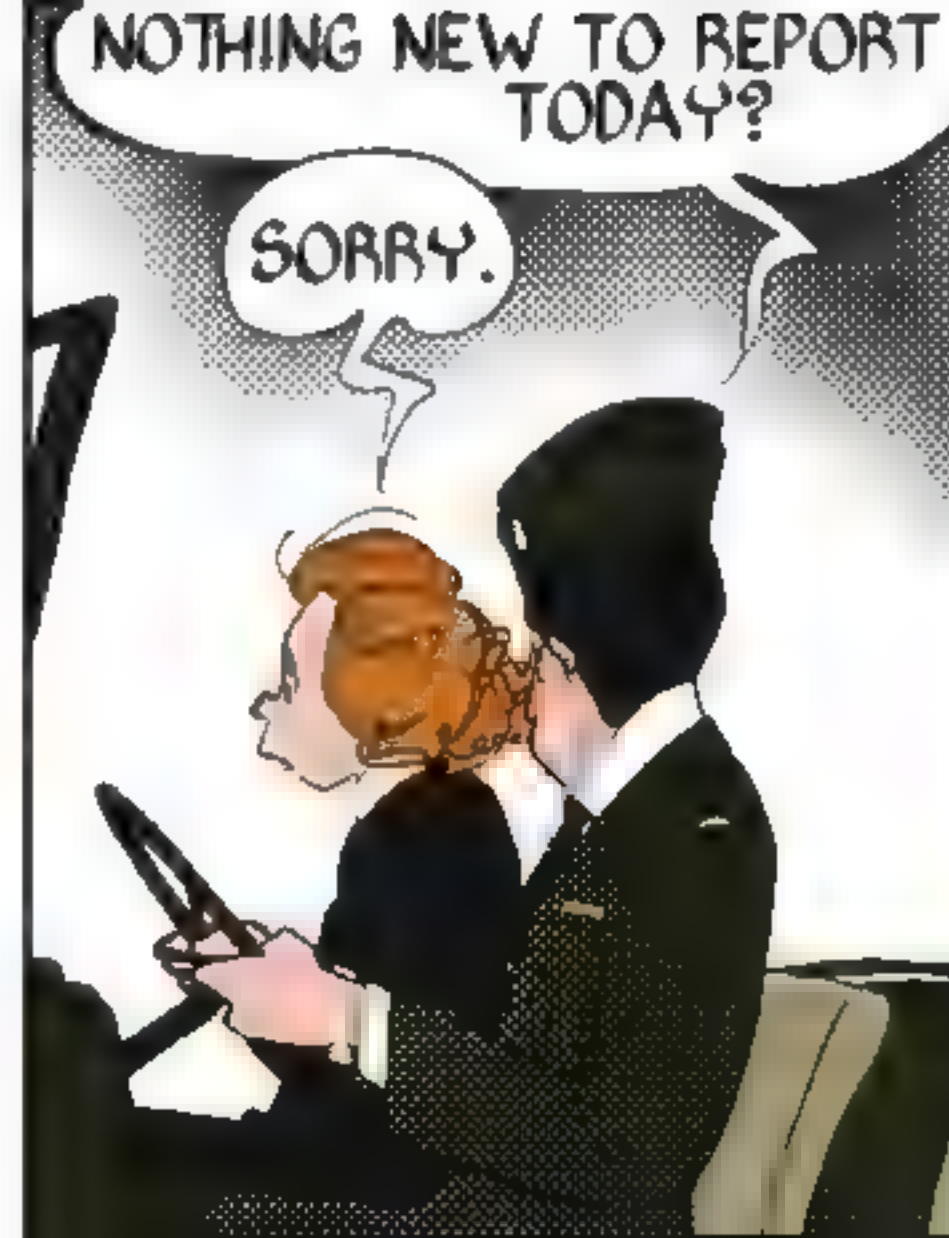
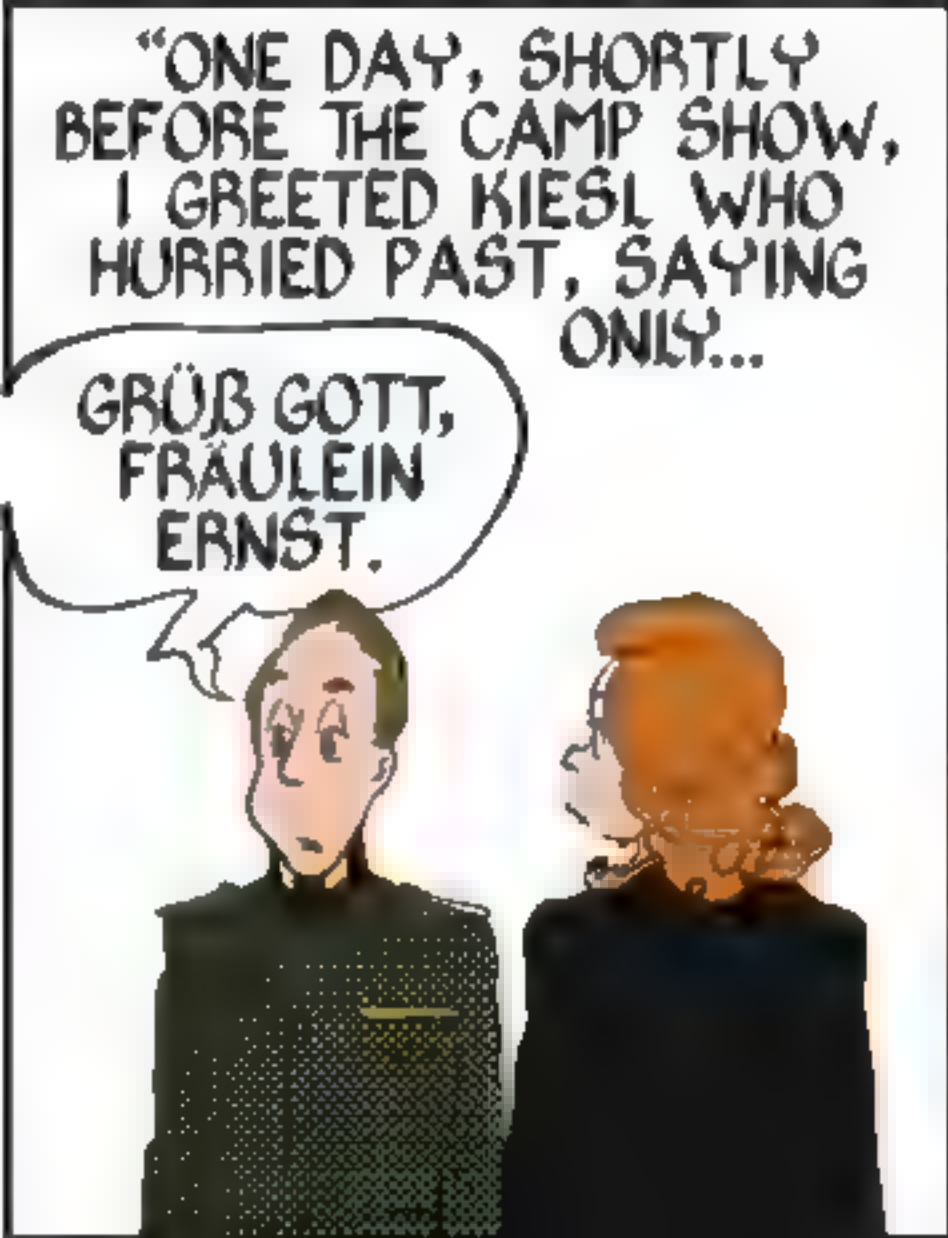














"BEFORE LEAVING ME AT MY DOOR THAT EVENING, BILL TOOK OFF HIS HAT... AND BILL NEVER REMOVED HIS HAT OUT OF DOORS. THEN HE CALLED ME...

SWEETHEART...

"IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE EVER CALLED ME THAT."

2-10 2017 Brook N. E. davis, J. 1st by LFS Inc

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T KNOWN MANY MEN...

AS A USO SINGER, I, OF COURSE, WOULDN'T HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH A LOT OF MEN.

ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, YOU HAVEN'T HAD A LOT OF GUYS TO CHOOSE FROM...

BUT MAYBE, ONE DAY, IF WE MAKE IT THROUGH THIS WAR...

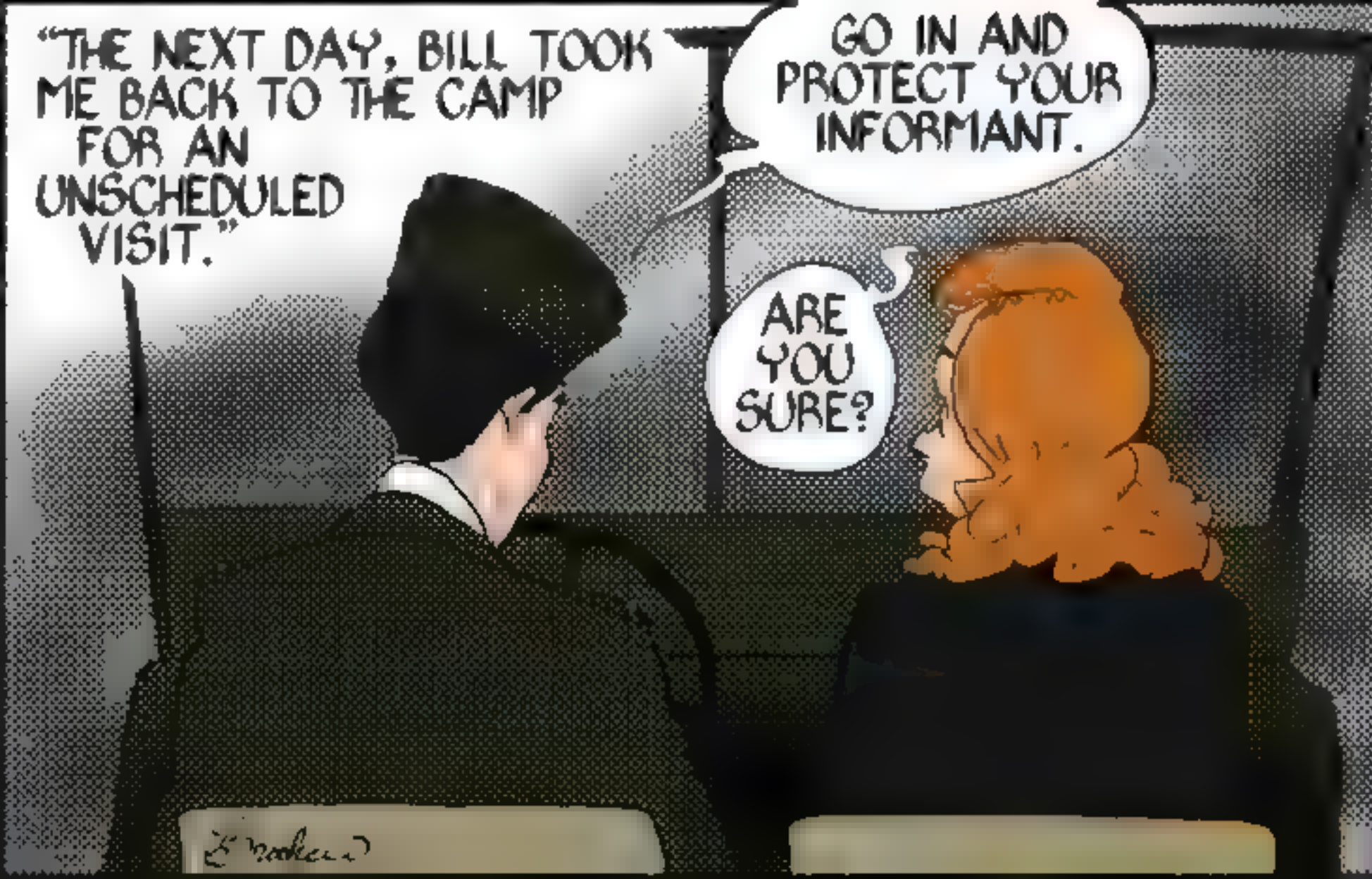
*Broken*

...YOU'LL CHOOSE ME.











THERE IS A RUMOR SPREADING THAT I'M PASSING ACTUAL INTELLIGENCE TO THE ALLIES THROUGH YOU. IT IS UNFOUNDED, BUT LIKE A LOT OF UNFOUNDED RUMORS IT ACCIDENTALLY HIT VERY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH. YOUR COMING HERE IS GOING TO GET MY THROAT CUT AS A COLLABORATOR.



I'M HERE TO SAVE YOUR BACON.

NOW, HERE LOOKS LIKE A GOOD HIDING SPOT.

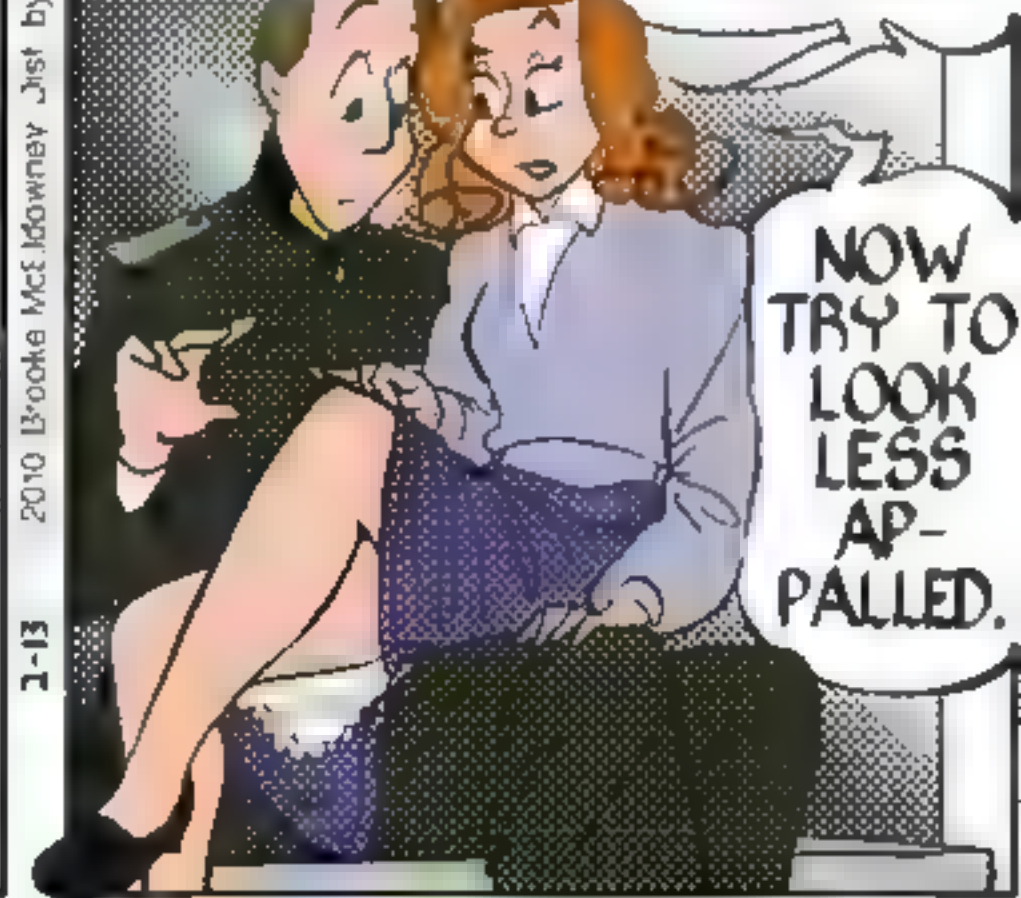
THERE'S NOWHERE TO HIDE.



I RELY ON IT.

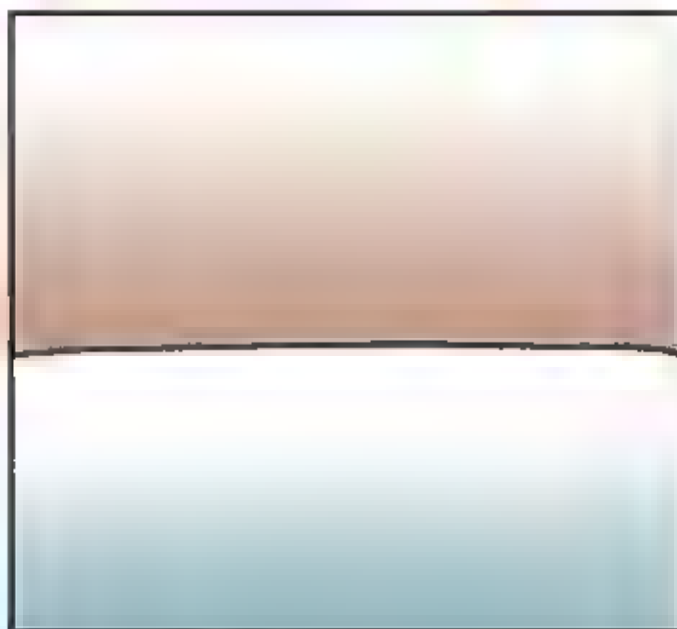
THIS IS HOW WE IN ALLIED INTELLIGENCE DISPEL RUMORS: ...BY PROVIDING JUICIER ALTERNATIVE RUMORS.

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NOW TRY TO LOOK LESS AP-PALLED.





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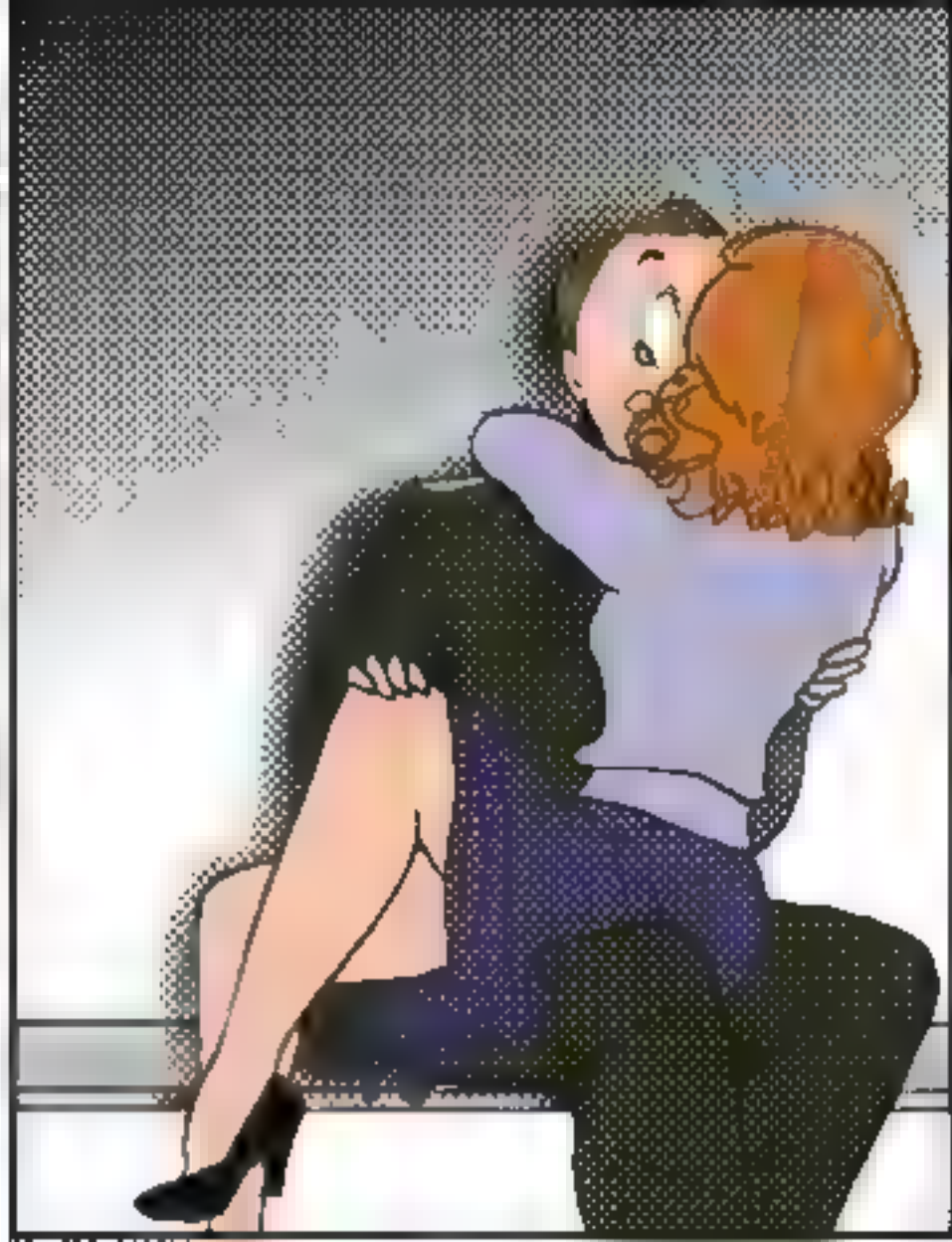




NOW PUT YOUR HAND  
ON MY KNEE AND  
HOLD STILL.

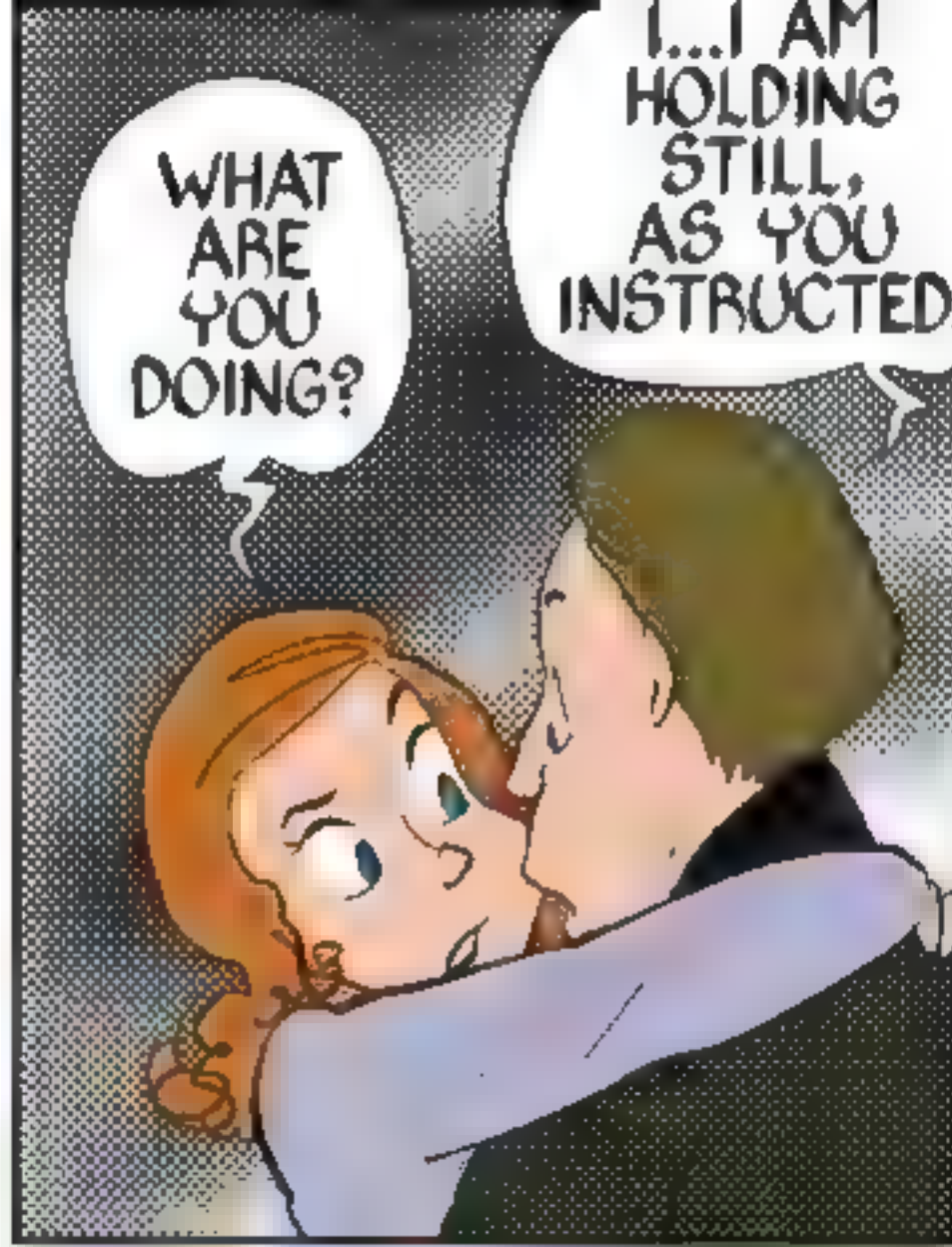


2-15 2010 Brooke McEldowney D.C. ©



WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING?

I...I AM  
HOLDING  
STILL,  
AS YOU  
INSTRUCTED.



NOT THAT STILL!...I LOOK  
AS IF I'M NECKING WITH  
AN AUTOPSY.





PUT YOUR ARM AROUND MY  
WAIST...NOW, BILL SAYS  
TO WAIT ABOUT SIXTY  
SECONDS FOR PEOPLE TO  
GATHER...MAYBE TWO  
MINUTES.

LIEUTENANT  
O'MALLEY?  
HE TOLD  
YOU TO  
DO THIS?

HE KNOWS HOW TO DISPEL  
RUMORS. NOW HOLD ME A  
LITTLE TIGHTER AND RELAX.

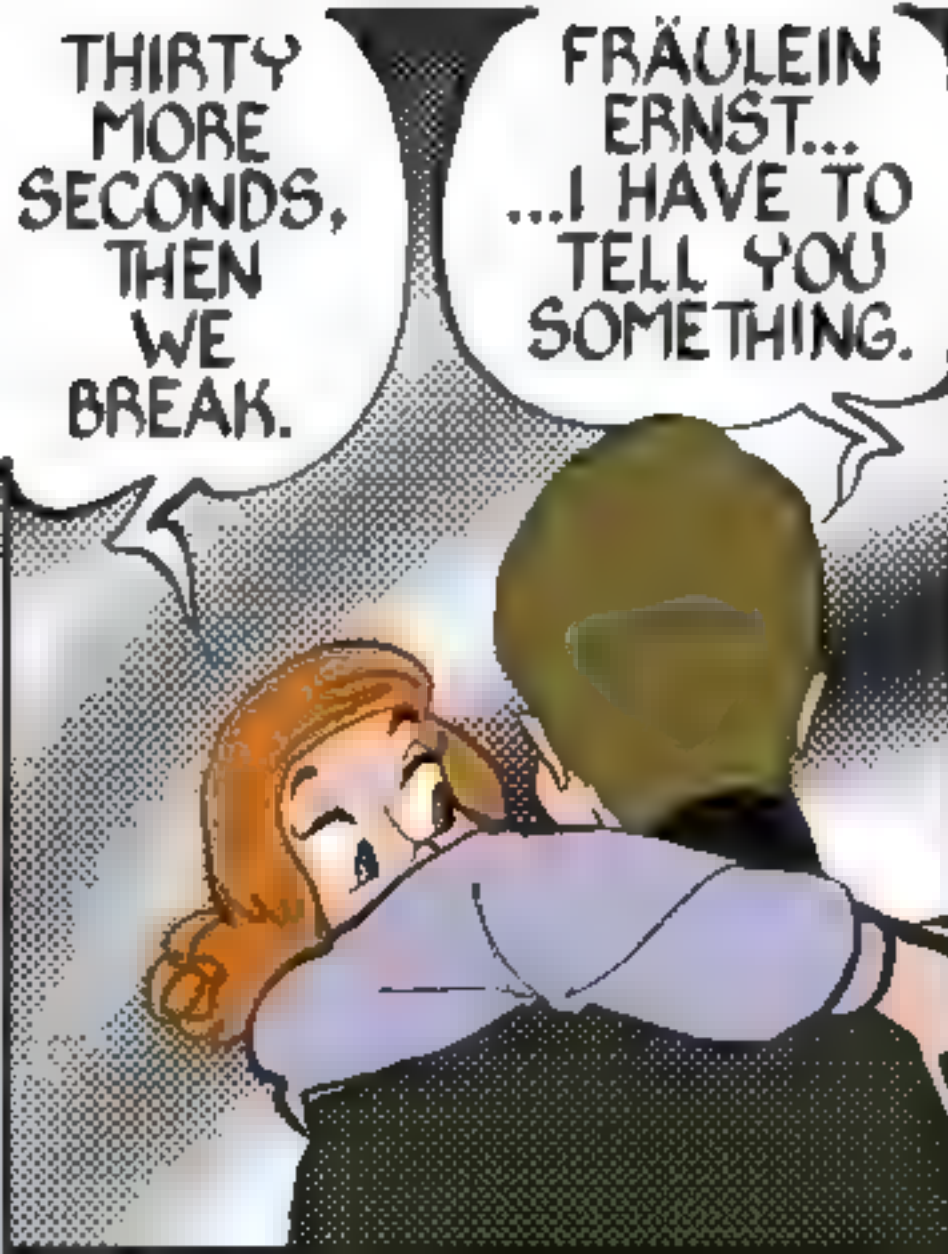
FRAULEIN ERNST, ALLOW ME  
TO SAY THAT IF MY BODY  
MUST BE DISCOVERED IN THE  
SHOWER ROOM  
WITH MY  
THROAT  
CUT FOR  
TREASON,  
...THIS IS  
THE WAY  
I SHOULD  
CHOOSE IT  
TO SPEND  
ITS LAST  
HOUR.

PLEASE  
CONVEY  
MY THANKS  
TO LT.  
O'MALLEY.

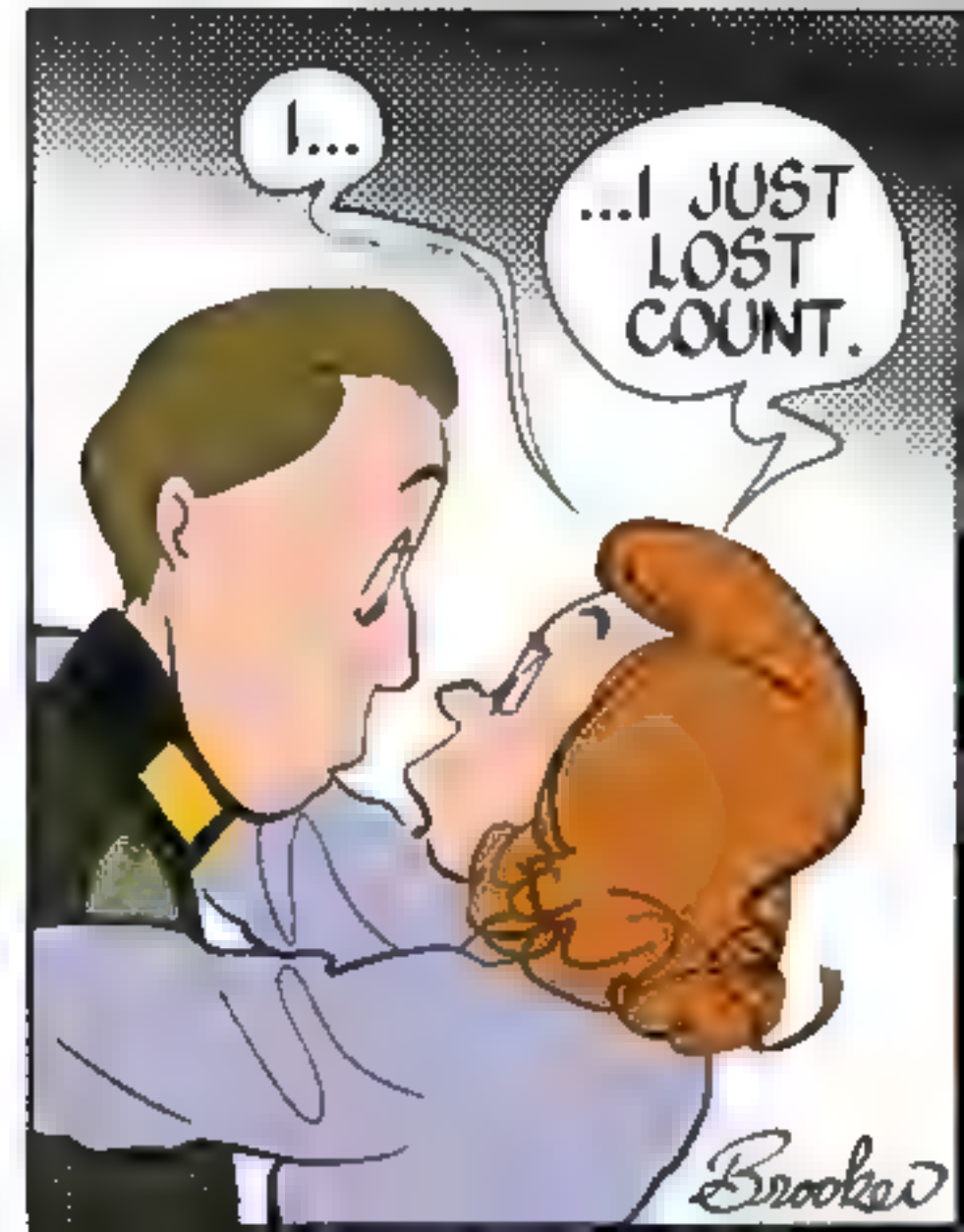
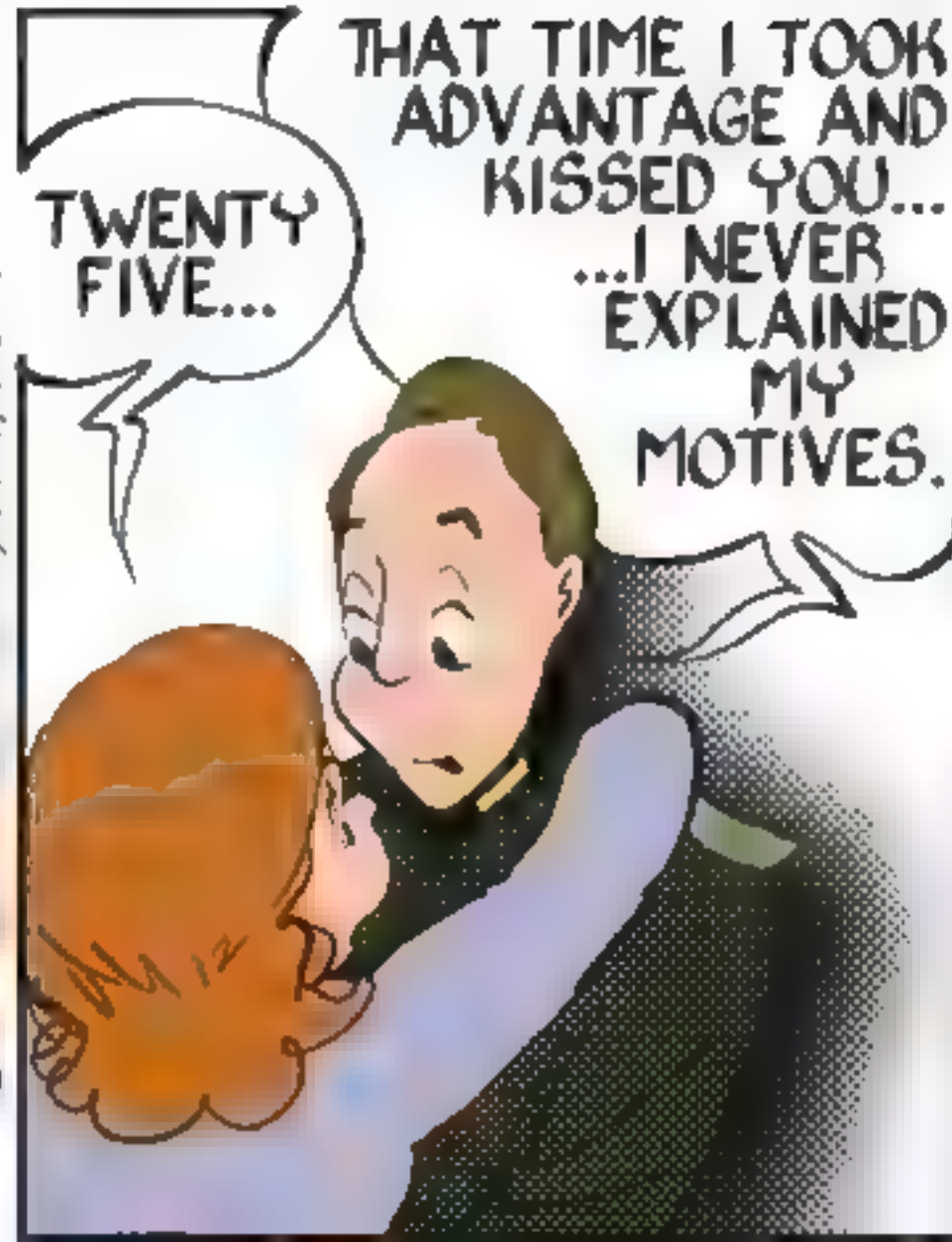
THANK  
HIM  
YOURSELF,  
AFTER  
THE  
WAR.

Brooke

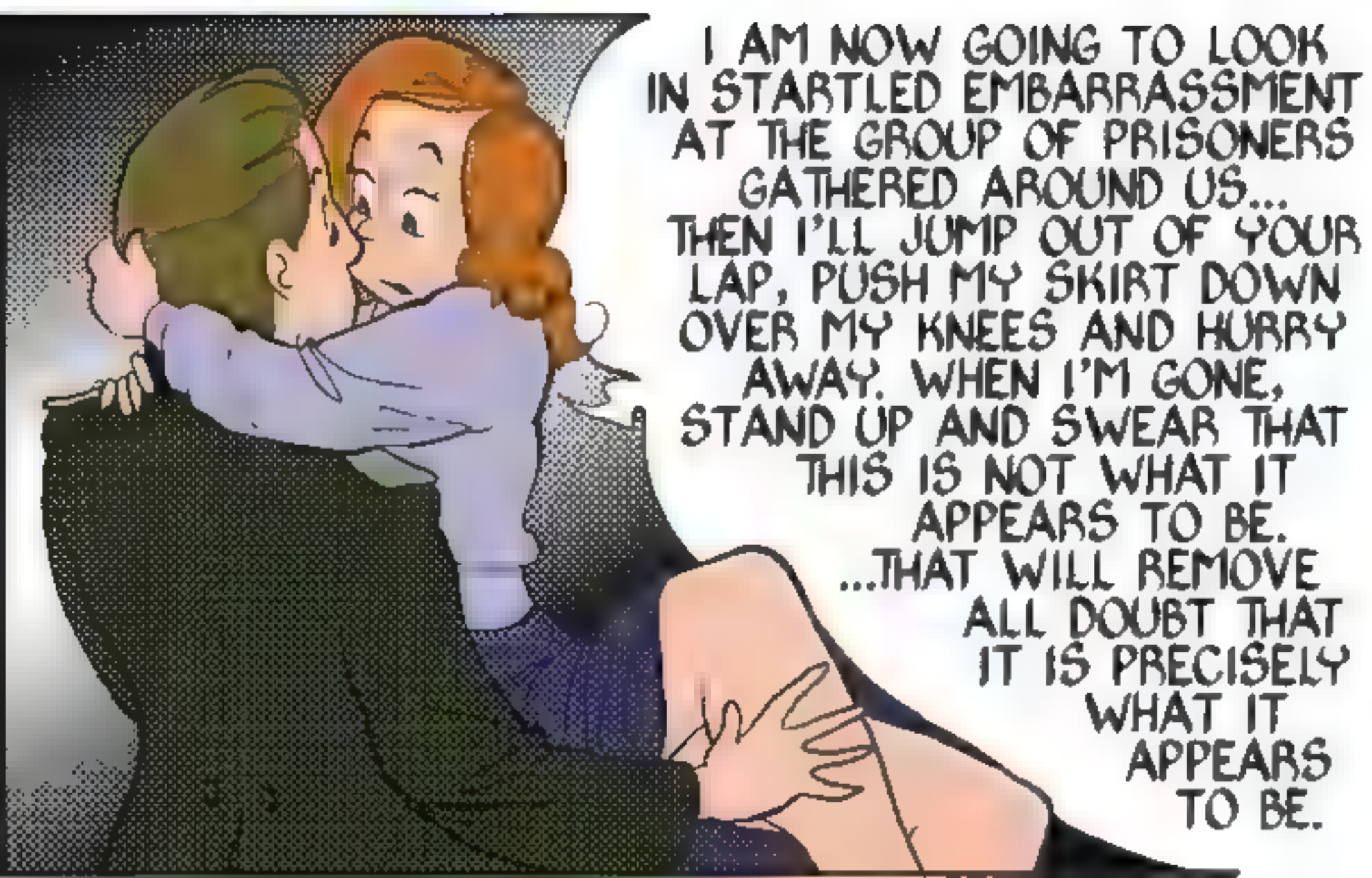




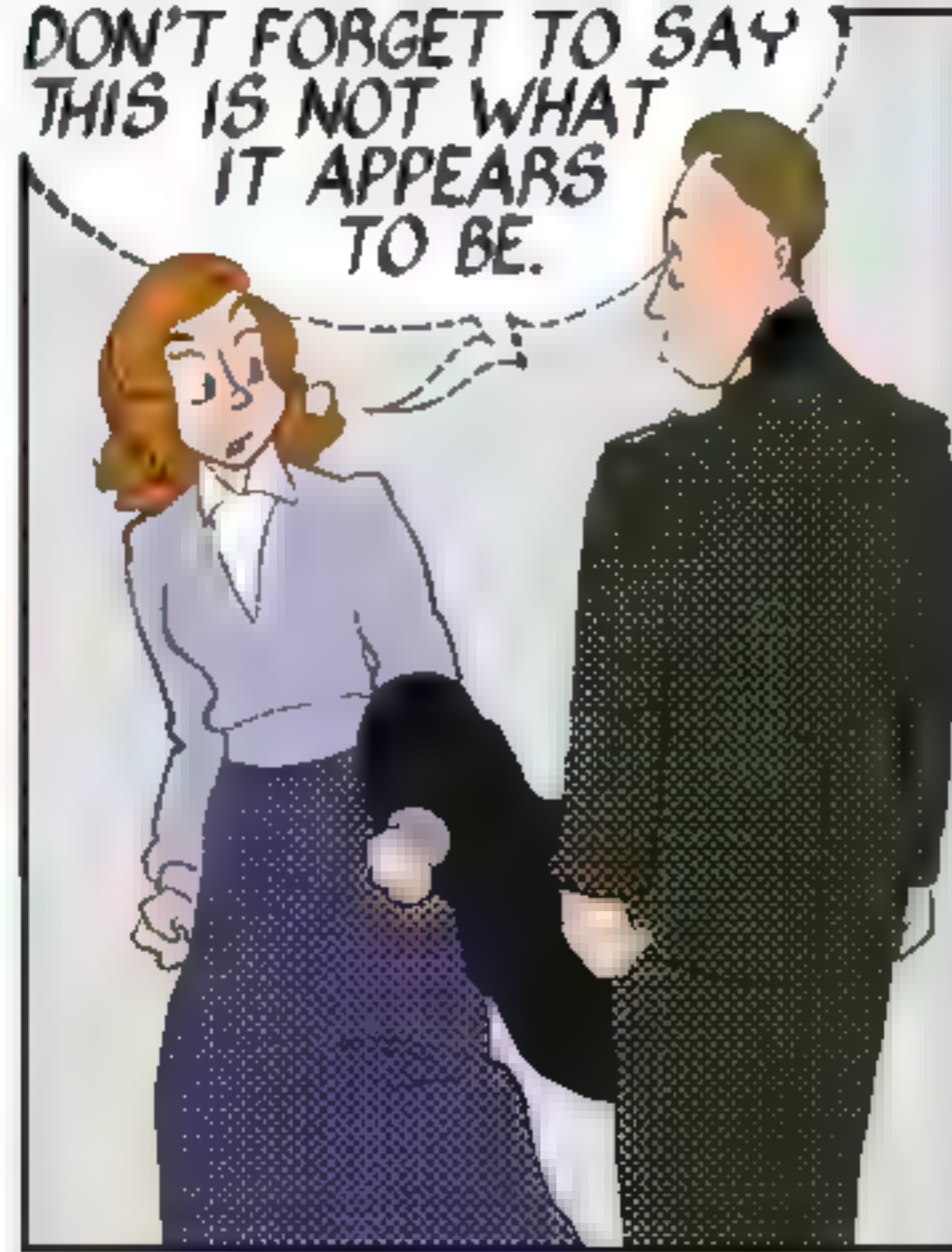
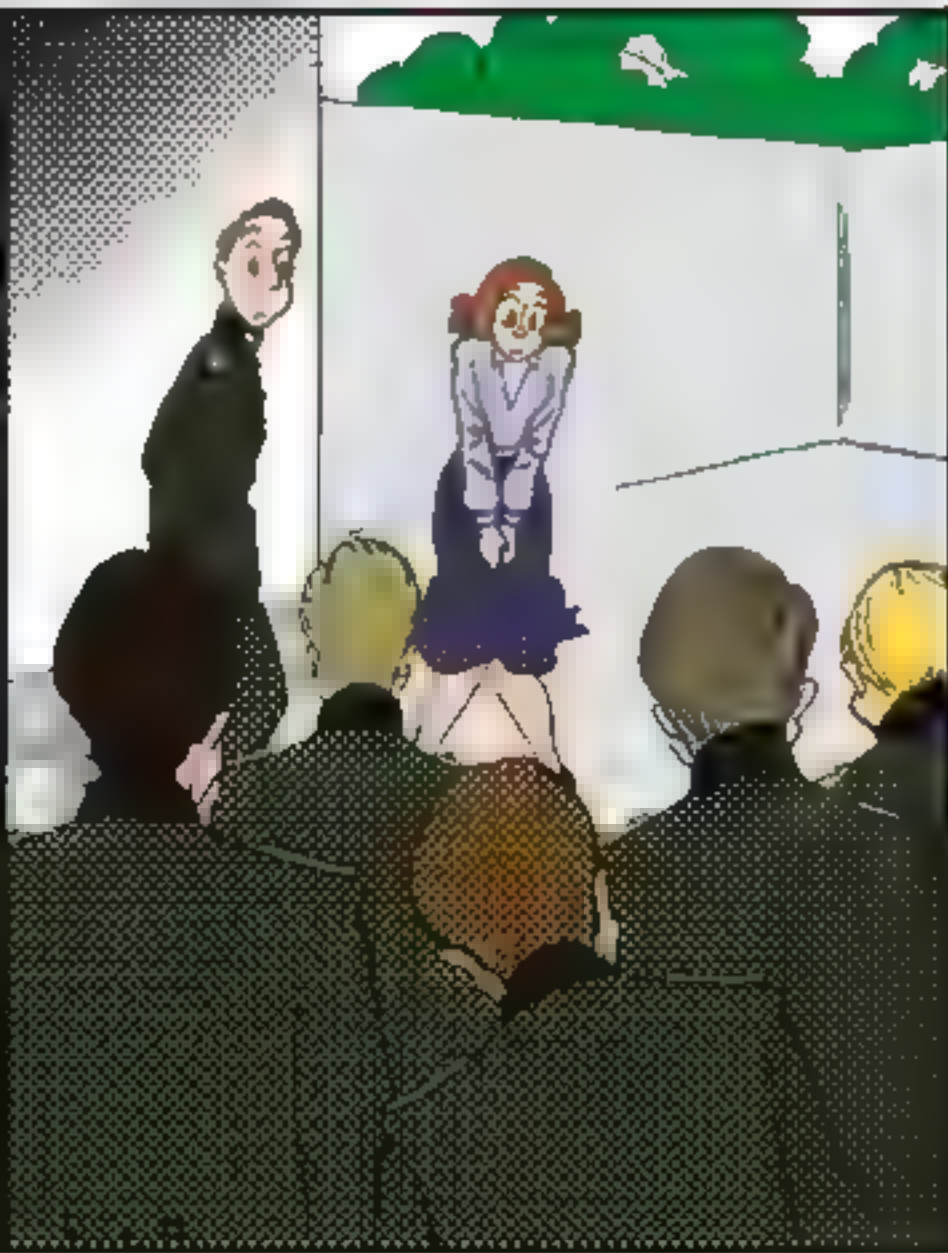
2-17 © Bruce McElownway Dist by UFS Inc











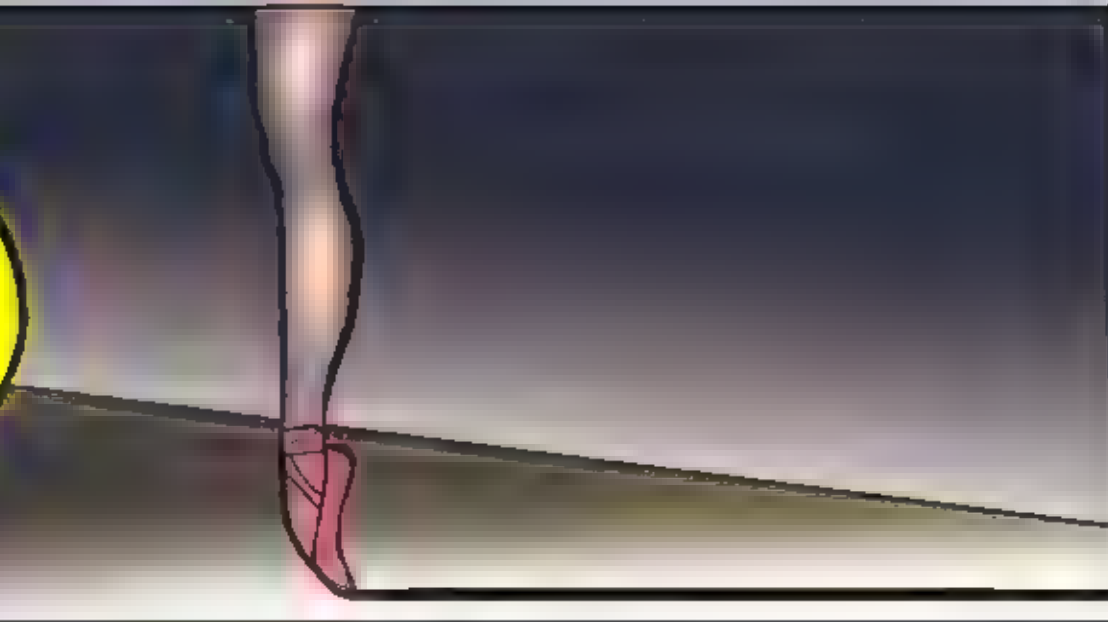




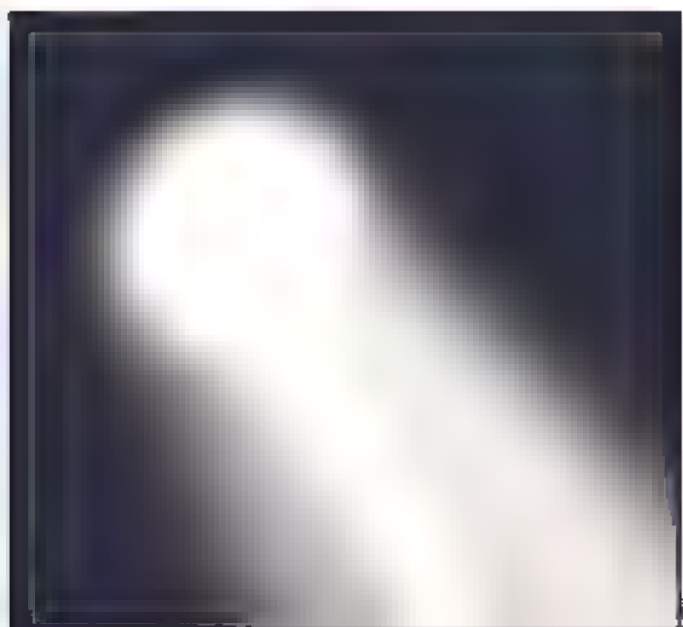
I HAVE  
NEVER HAD  
SO MANY MEN  
WINK AT ME  
AND SHAKE  
MY HAND.







2-21 ©2010 Brooke McEldowney Del by U-S Inc

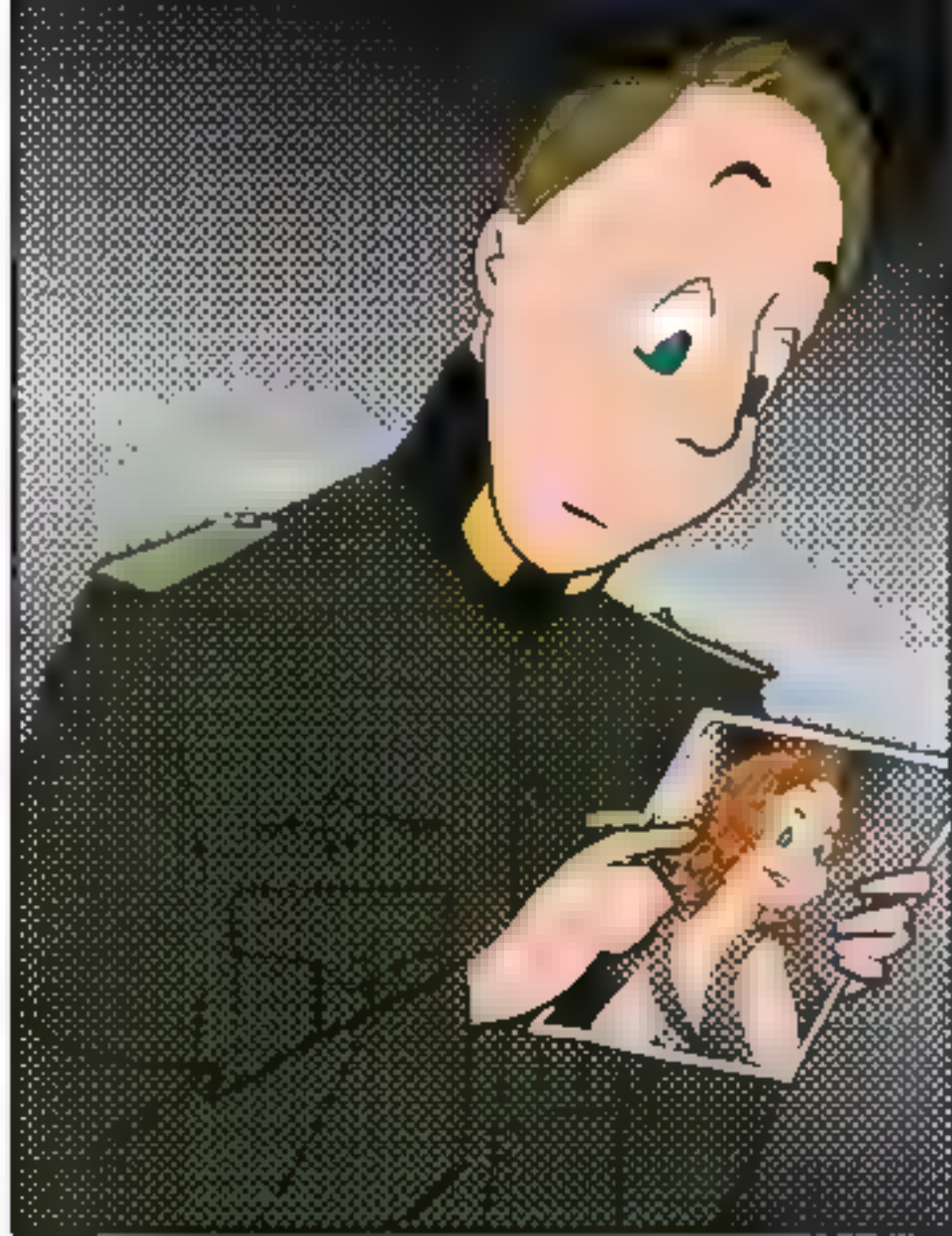




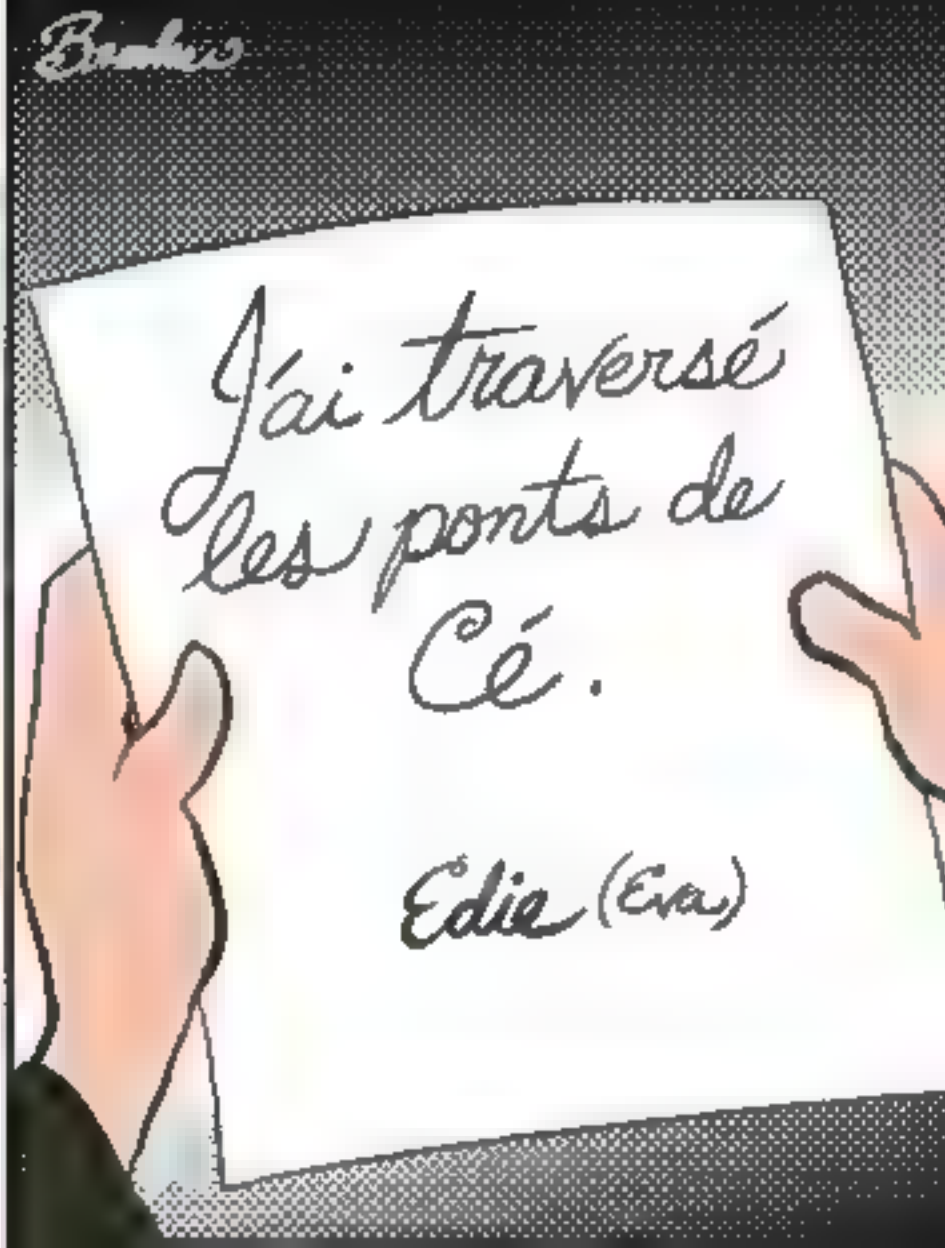
THE NEXT WEEK WAS THE SHOW...BUT IT WASN'T A CAMP SHOW. IT WAS AT THE HIPPODROME IN LONDON, PACKED WITH SERVICEMEN. BILL THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO BE SCARCE AT THE P.O.W. CAMP, SO I ASKED A GUARD TO SNEAK IN A PICTURE OF ME AND GIVE IT TO KIESL.



"YOU COULDN'T WRITE PLACE NAMES OR DATES ON ANYTHING IN THOSE DAYS, BUT I WANTED HIM TO KNOW I WAS GOING TO PERFORM."



2-21 2010 Brooke McEldowney Dist by L&L





"IT WAS A VERY BIG DEAL,  
THIS SHOW...AND IT DREW  
A LOT OF REPORTERS AND  
NEWSREEL CAMERAMEN.  
LAURENCE  
OLIVIER,  
IN UNIFORM,  
GAVE A  
PATRIOTIC  
SPEECH,  
MAURICE  
CHEVALIER  
SANG...SO DID  
NOEL COWARD.  
...I FELT  
TERRIBLY  
SMALL.



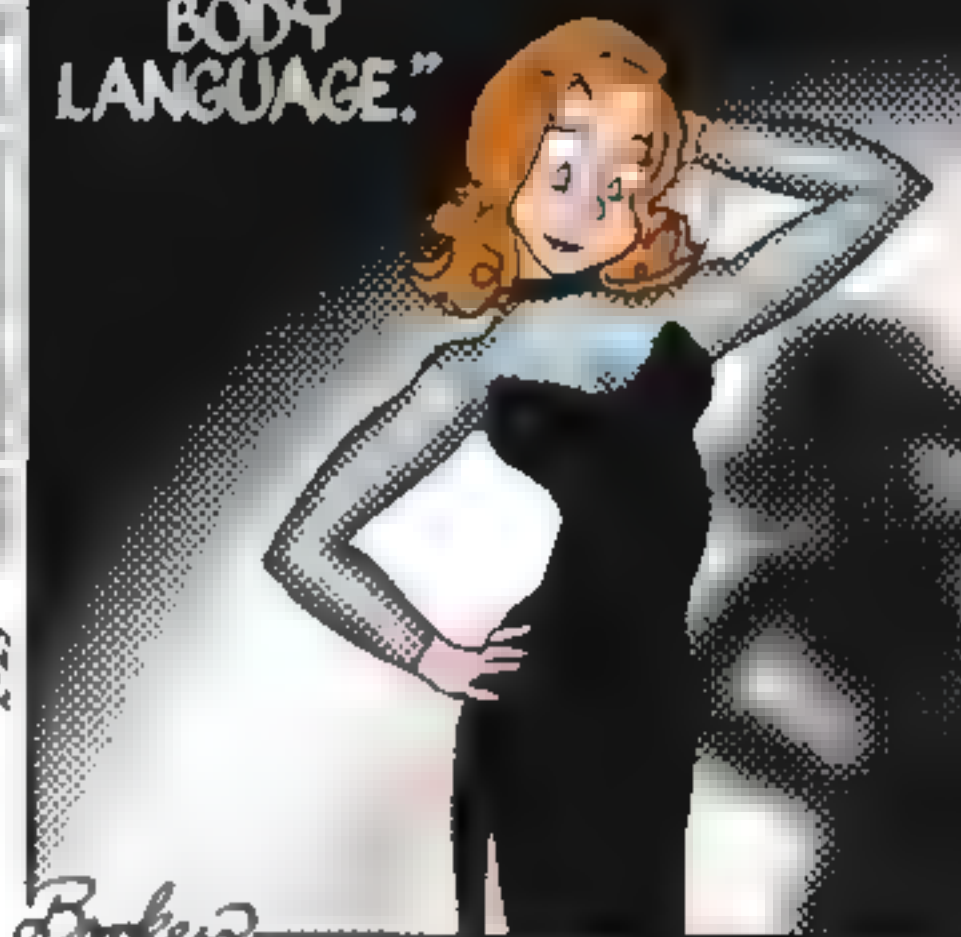
"WHEN MY FIRST NUMBER  
WAS ANNOUNCED, I THINK  
I STUMBLED SLIGHTLY AS  
I WALKED ONSTAGE. THERE  
WAS A ROUND OF POLITE  
APPLAUSE...THEN I  
REMEMBERED  
WHAT BILL  
TOLD ME.



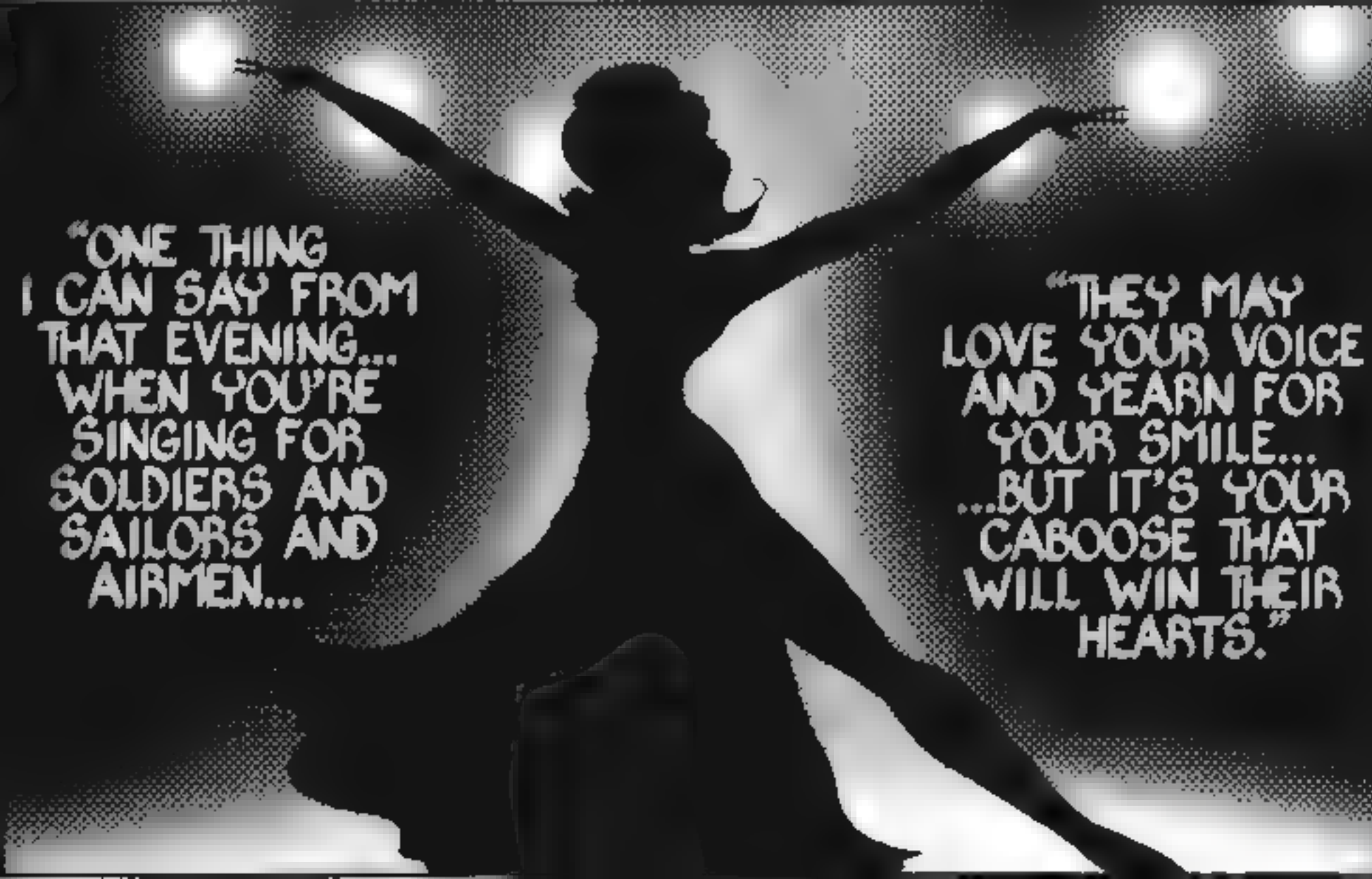
"JUST STAND THERE A  
MOMENT AND LET THEM  
GET A LOAD OF YOU.  
...THEN START  
SINGING.  
...THEY'LL BE  
IN LOVE."



"I DID AS HE SAID, THEN  
I SANG 'MY HEART BELONGS  
TO DADDY,' WITH QUITE  
A LOT OF  
BODY  
LANGUAGE."





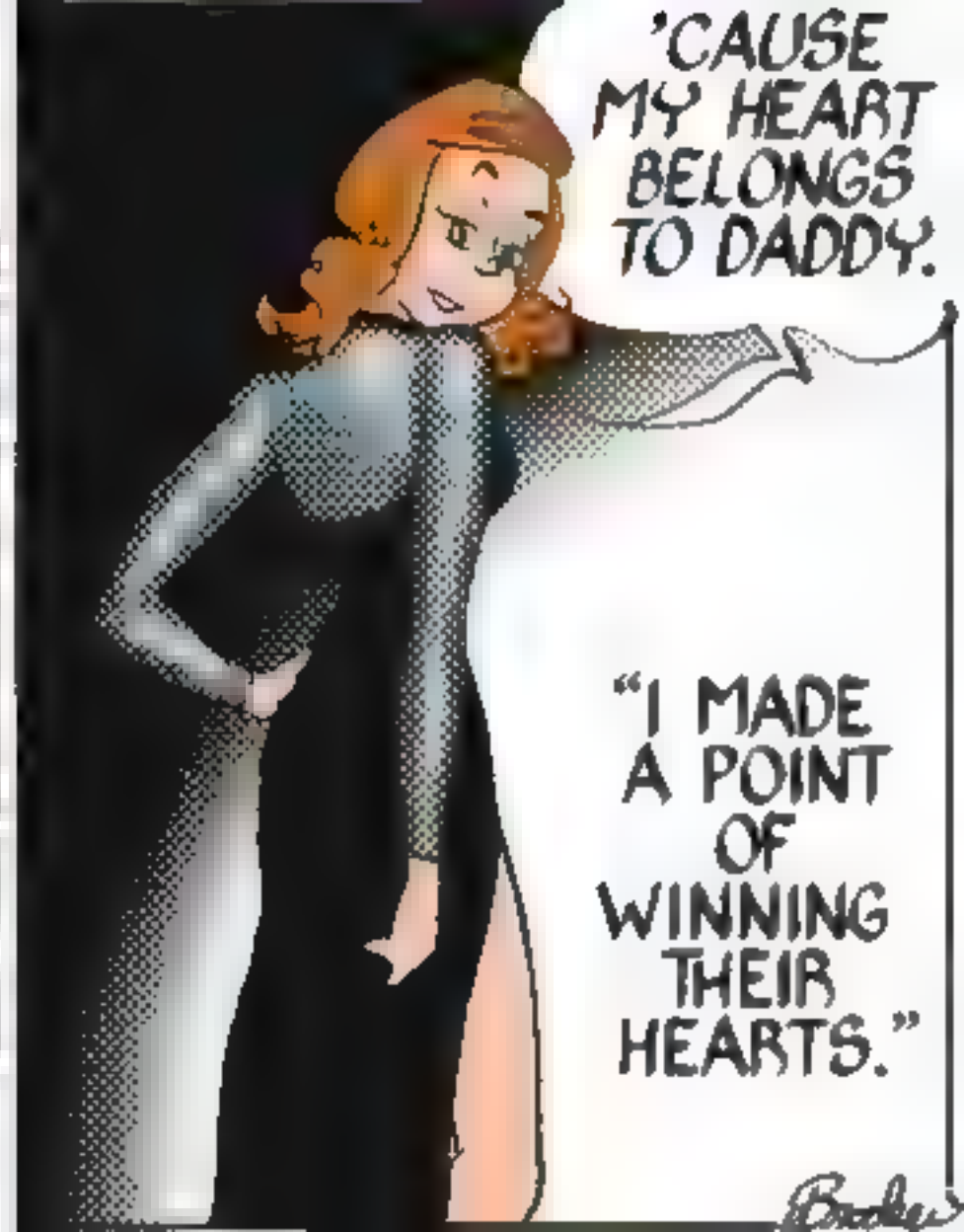


"ONE THING  
I CAN SAY FROM  
THAT EVENING...  
WHEN YOU'RE  
SINGING FOR  
SOLDIERS AND  
SAILORS AND  
AIRMEN..."

"THEY MAY  
LOVE YOUR VOICE  
AND YEARN FOR  
YOUR SMILE...  
...BUT IT'S YOUR  
CABOOSE THAT  
WILL WIN THEIR  
HEARTS."



WHILE TEARING  
OFF A GAME  
OF GOLF,  
I MAY MAKE  
A PLAY FOR  
THE CADDY...  
...BUT WHEN  
I DO,  
I DON'T  
FOLLOW  
THROUGH...



'CAUSE  
MY HEART  
BELONGS  
TO DADDY.

"I MADE  
A POINT  
OF  
WINNING  
THEIR  
HEARTS."

Brake



"WHEN I WAS DONE WITH MY COLE PORTER NUMBER,  
I TOOK MY BOW AND QUICKLY WALKED OFFSTAGE.  
BUT THE APPLAUSE HAD BYPASSED POLITE AND  
CRANKED UP TO BELLOWING CHEERS FROM THE BRITS,  
AND PIERCING YANK WHISTLES. A PAIR OF HANDS  
PUSHED ME BACK INTO THE FOLLOW SPOT,  
AND I WAS OBLIGED TO TAKE  
THREE MORE BOWS.



"LATER I  
FOUND OUT THE PAIR  
OF HANDS WERE BILL'S.

"A BRITISH SOLDIER THREW  
HIS CAP ON THE STAGE,  
I INVITED HIM UP TO  
RETRIEVE IT...



AND I GAVE  
HIM A KISS.  
THE CHEERS  
GOT LOUDER,  
HE BLUSHED  
AND  
EVERYBODY  
SEEMED TO  
BE HAVING  
A GOOD  
TIME.

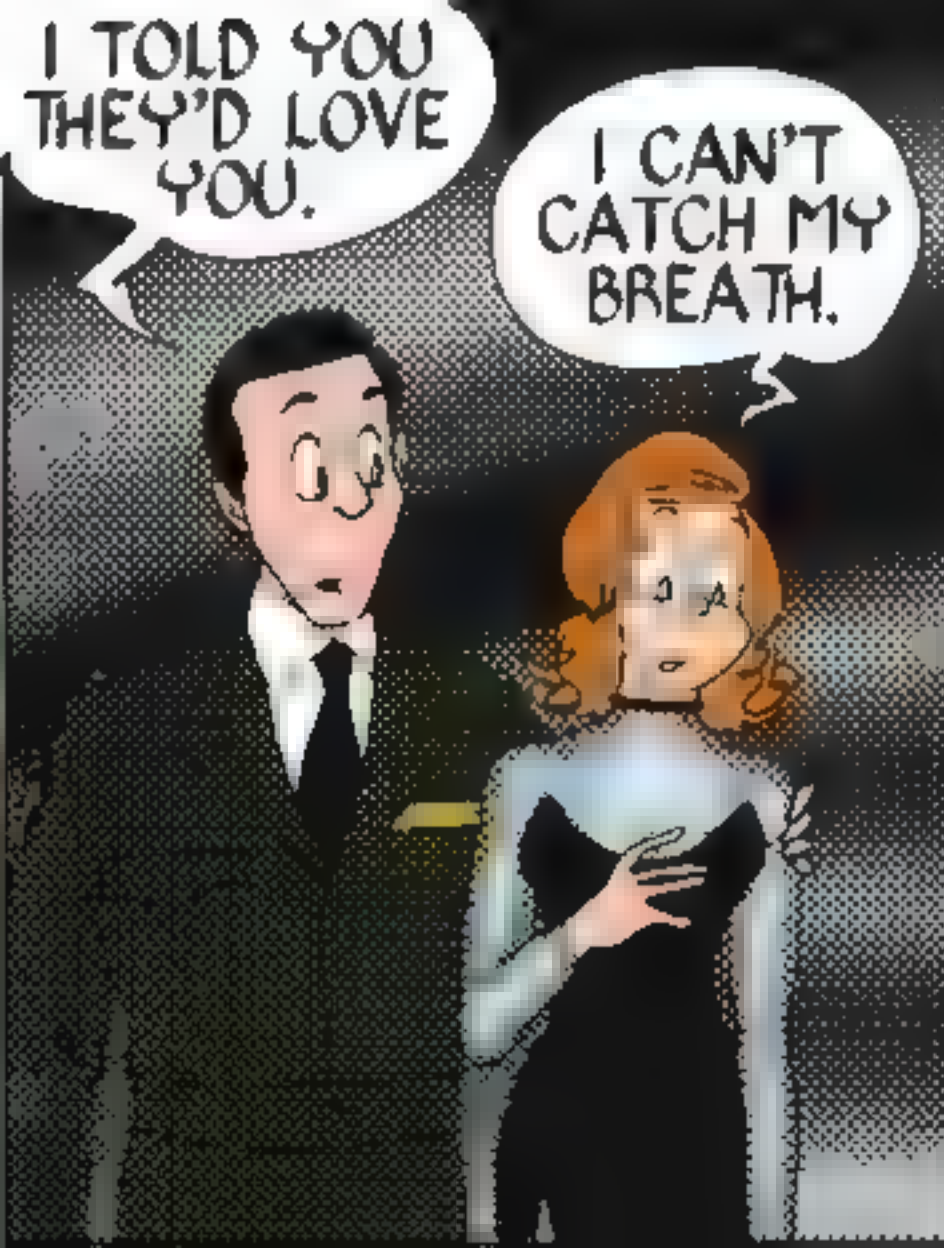
Brooke

2-15 2010 Brooke McElduff, v. 1.1 by Mike Ir

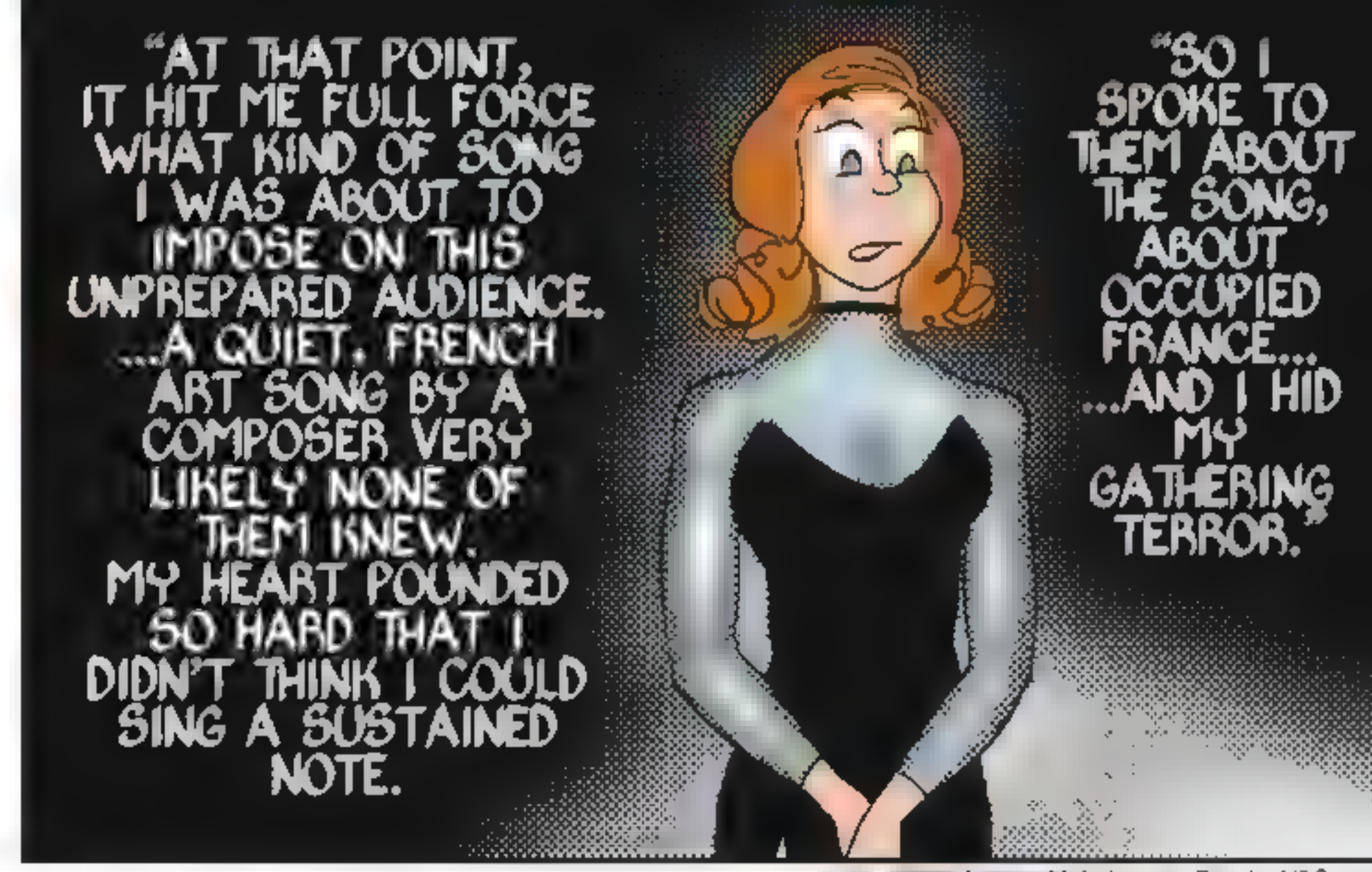
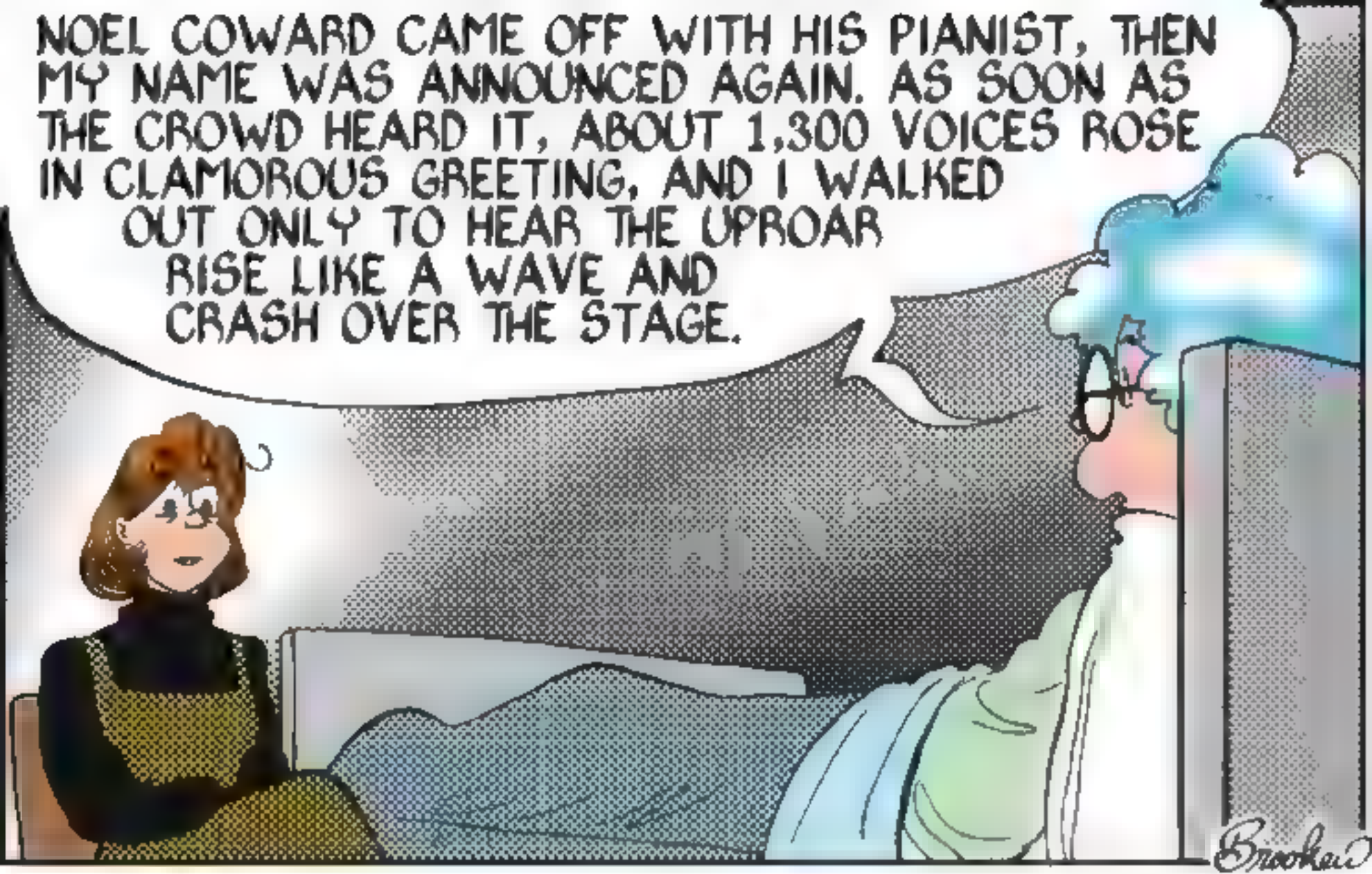
"...EXCEPT FOR ONE MAN  
STANDING IN THE BACK  
OF THE THEATRE."





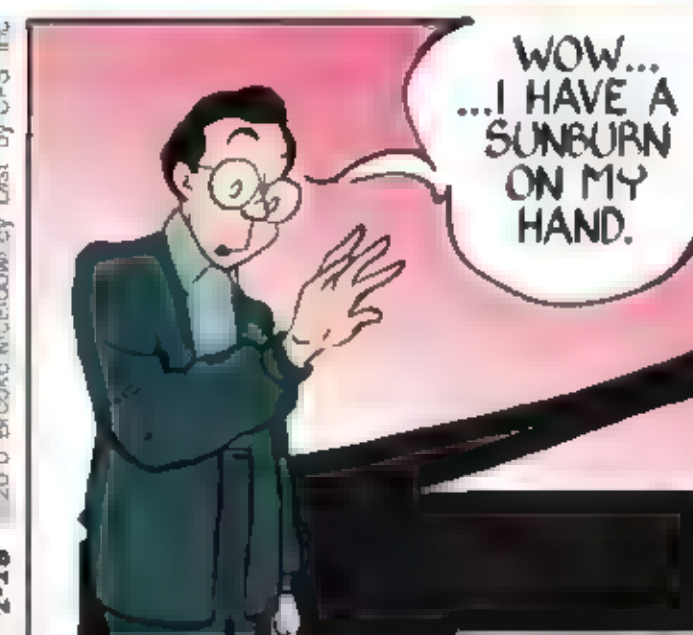
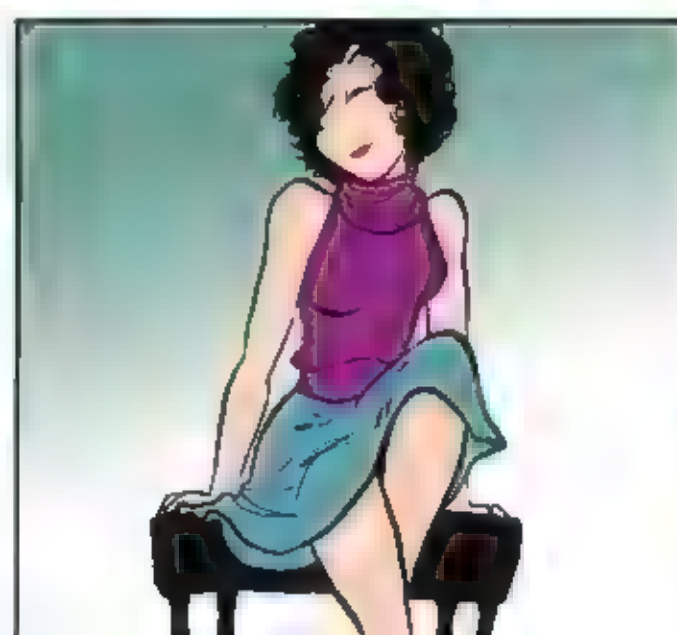
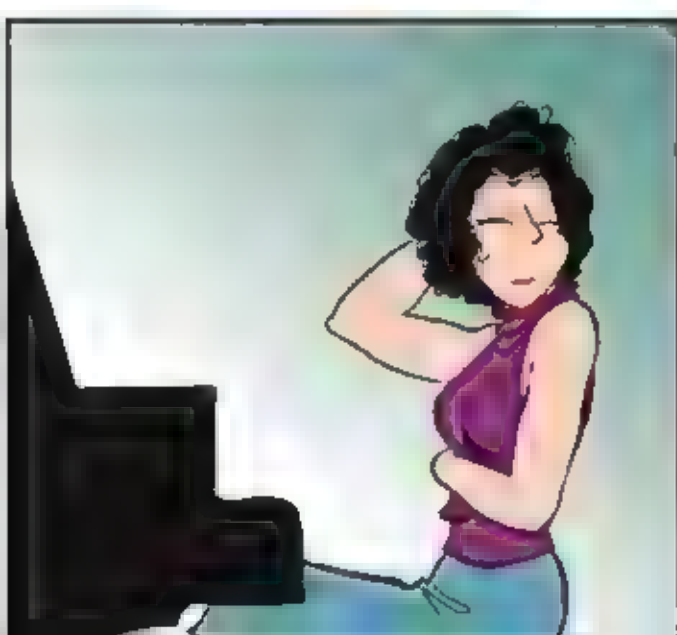
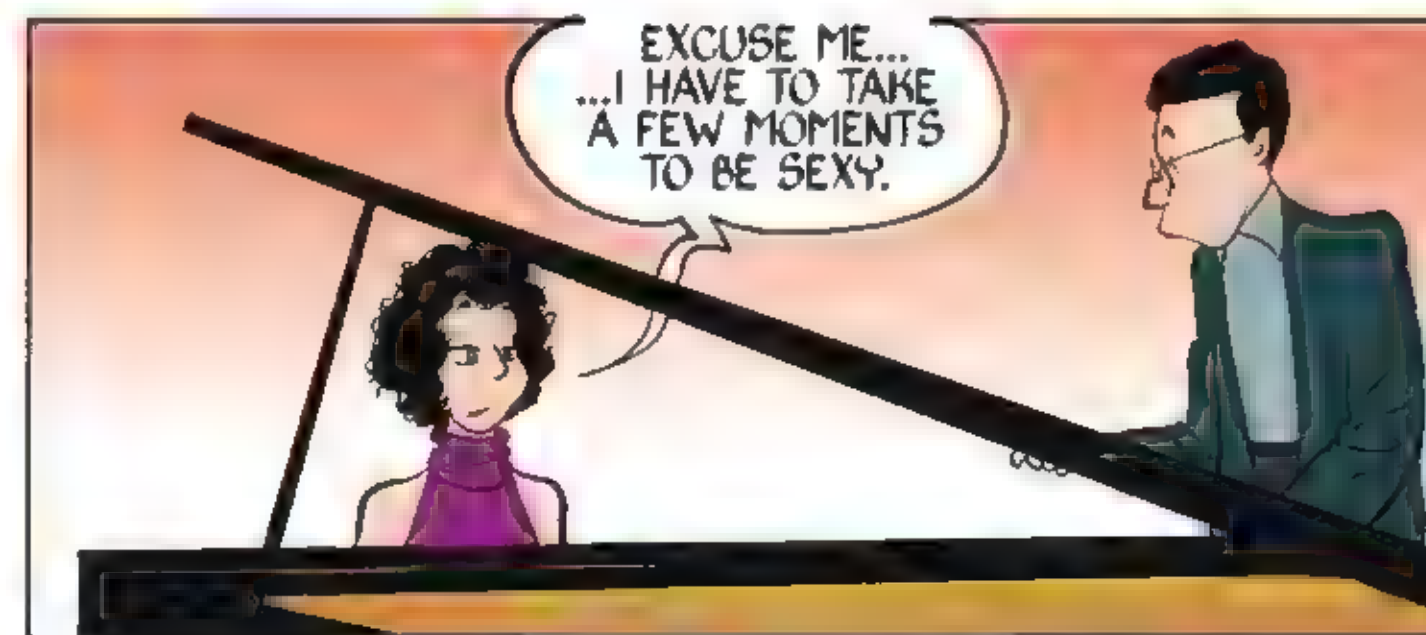
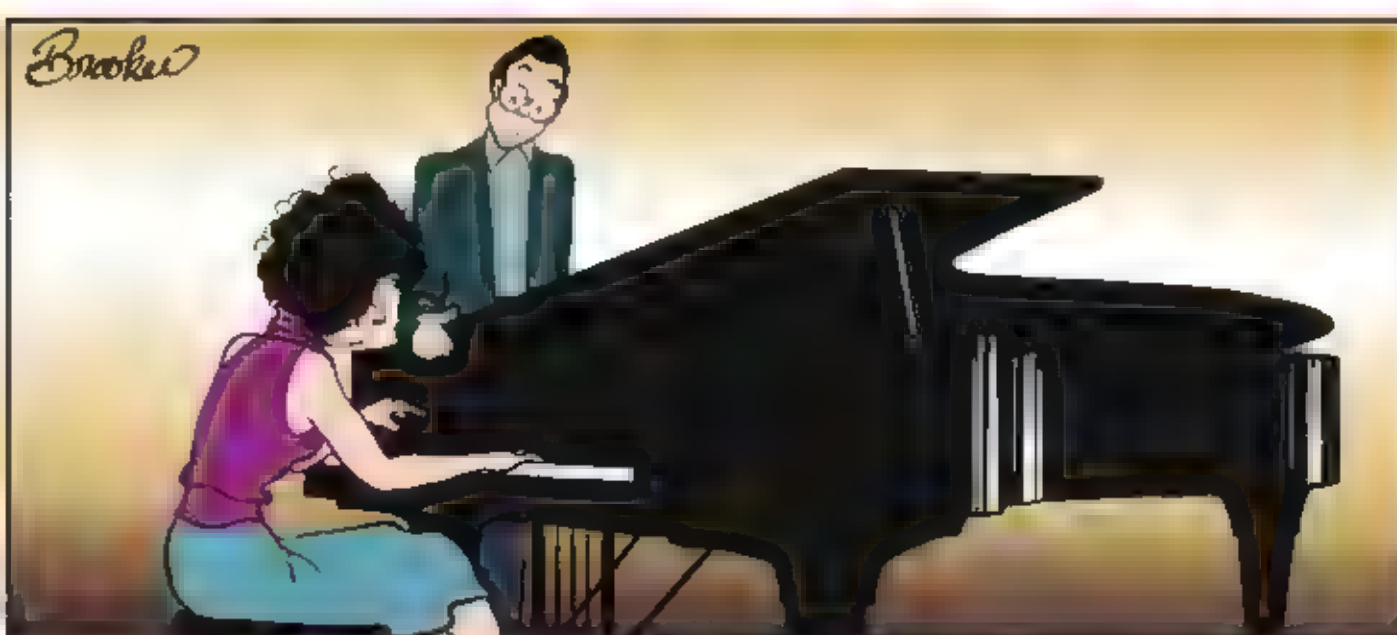






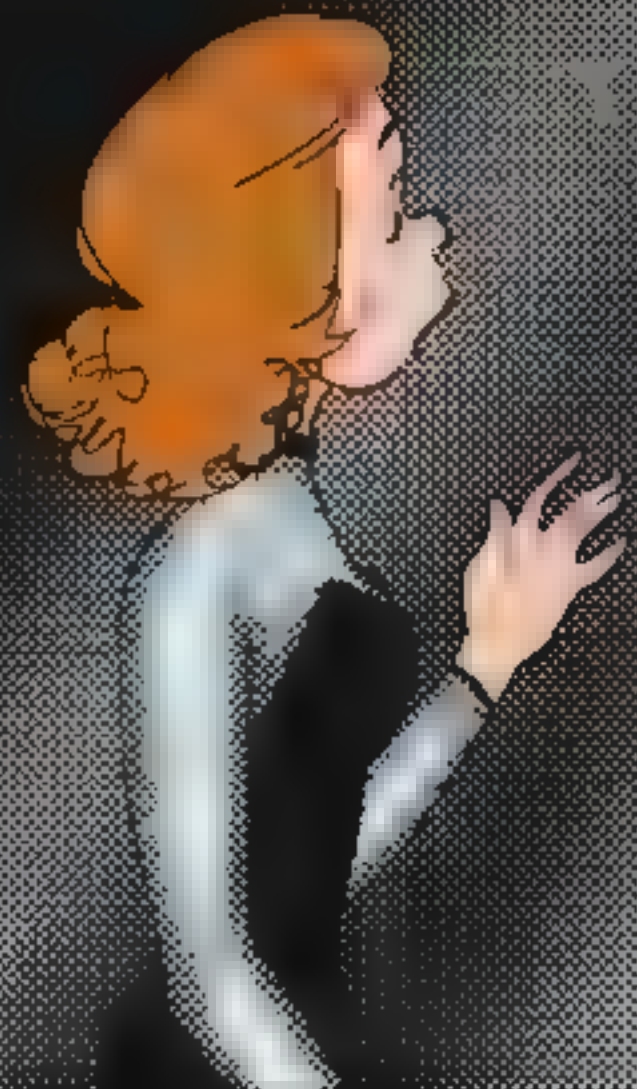


# 9 CHICKWEED LANE





"I TOLD THE AUDIENCE  
THAT THE SONG THEY WERE  
ABOUT TO HEAR WAS  
SMUGGLED OUT OF  
NAZI-OCCUPIED  
FRANCE...  
...THAT IT SPOKE OF  
A TOWN CALLED  
SIMPLY 'CE.'  
...IT SANG OF MEMORIES,  
OF LOVE AND OF LOSS.  
...AND IN THE END  
IT CRIED OUT OVER  
AN ABANDONED  
FRANCE.



"THEN I BOWED MY HEAD,  
MY PIANIST PLAYED THE FEW  
BARS OF INTRODUCTION...  
...AND THIRTEEN HUNDRED  
MEN SILENTLY HEARD  
ME OUT."



*Brooke*



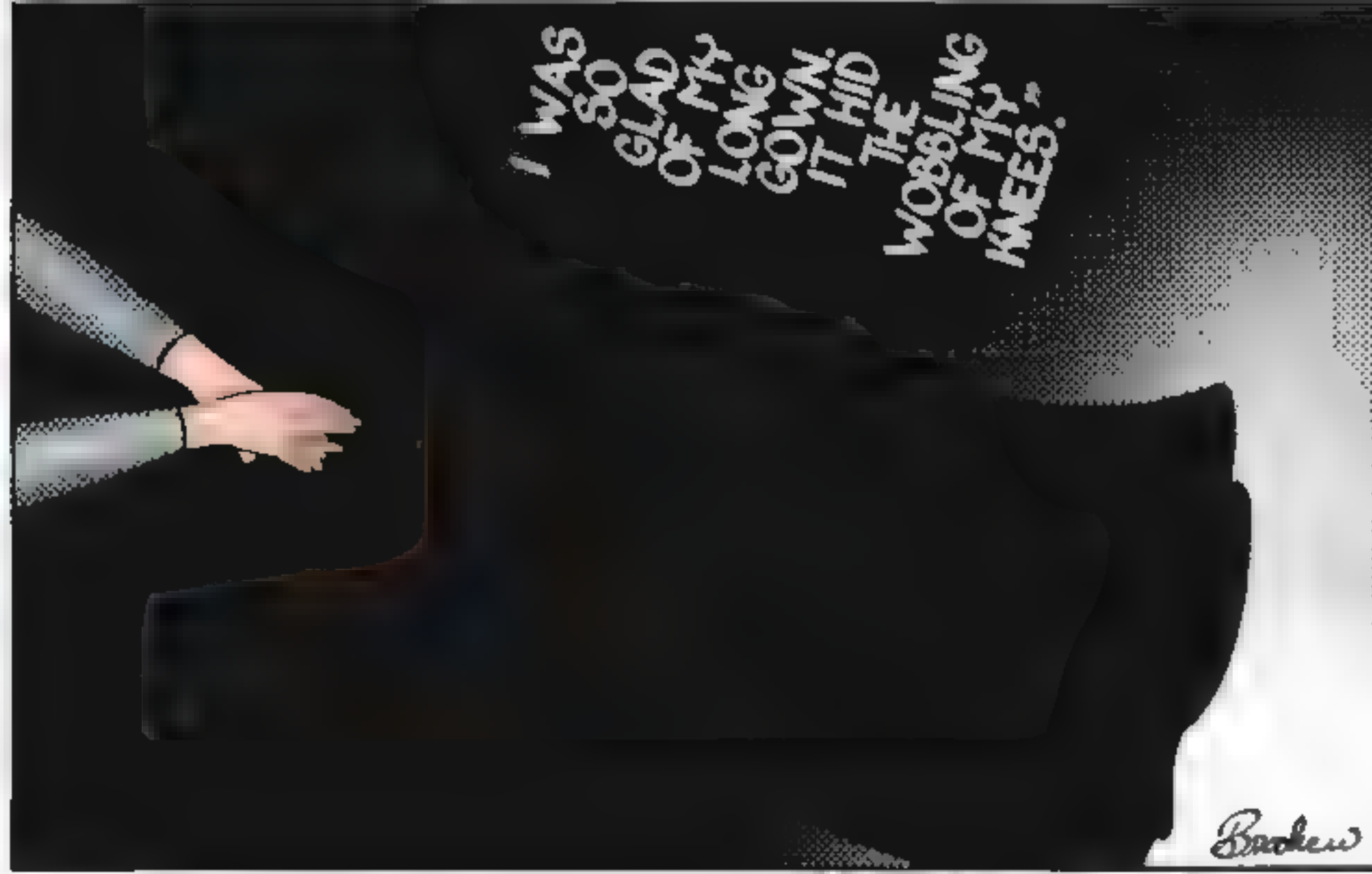
"AS I SANG OF  
CROSSING THE BRIDGES OF CE,  
OF THE CHATEAU, THE FIELDS,  
OF THE ETERNAL FIANCEE OF  
THE POET'S MEMORY..."

"I STOOD  
STILL,  
UTTERLY  
MOTIONLESS,  
MY HANDS,  
FOLDED  
BEFORE ME."

I SANG  
IN  
FRENCH.

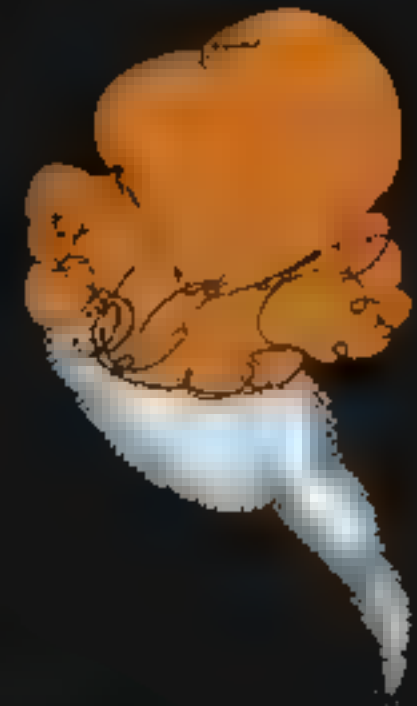


I WAS  
SO  
GLAD  
OF MY  
LONG  
GOWN.  
IT HID  
THE  
WOBBLING  
OF MY  
KNEES."





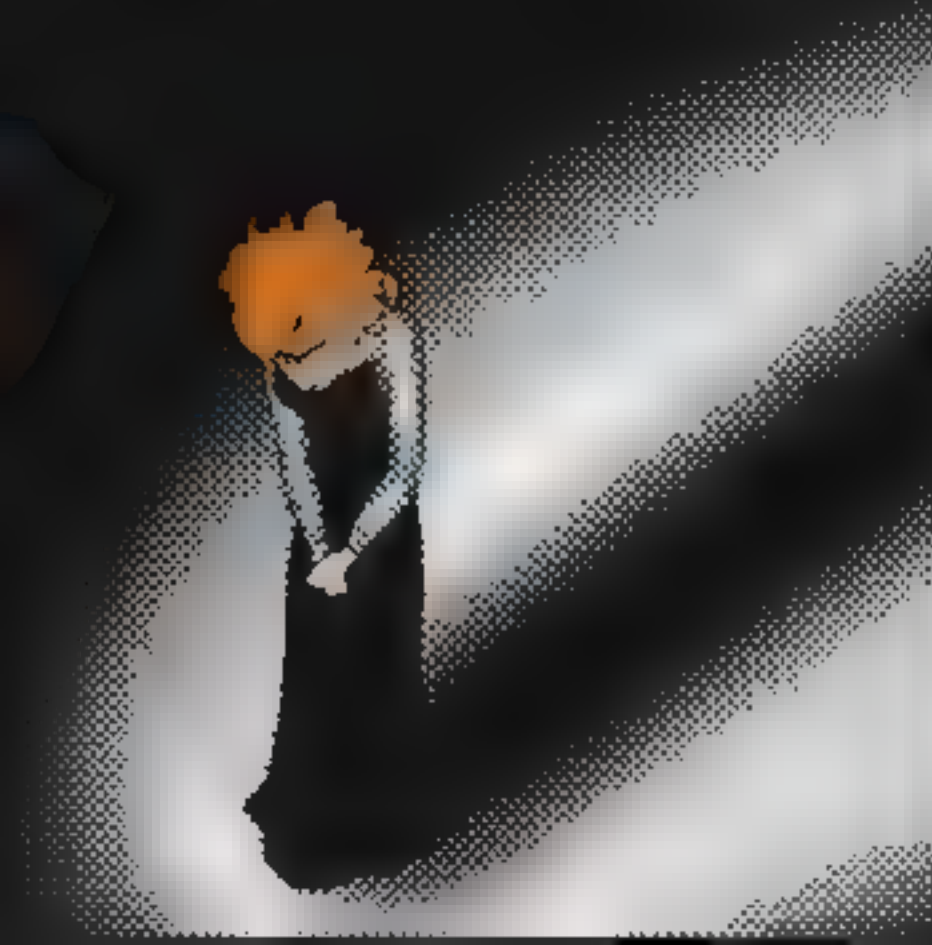
"IN THE LAST  
MOMENTS OF THE  
SONG, WHEN I SANG  
'O MA FRANCE,  
O MA DELAISSEE,'  
I REALIZED MY  
EYES WERE CLOSED.  
...I HAD STOPPED  
FEELING FRIGHTENED,  
AND WAS  
LOST  
IN SUCH  
SADNESS.



"I BOWED MY  
HEAD AGAIN...  
...THEN THE SONG  
WAS OVER.  
IN THE BREATHLESS  
SILENCE, I STARED  
AT THE HEM OF MY  
GOWN AND WONDERED  
IF EVERYONE HAD  
CREPT OUT —  
A THOUGHT SUPERSEDED  
BY THE TERRIFYING  
REALIZATION  
THAT I HAD NO IDEA  
HOW I WAS GOING  
TO GET OFF."



"I STOOD IN THE SILENCE  
FOR WHAT SEEMED TO BE  
THE PASSAGE OF SEVERAL  
GEOLOGICAL EPOCHS.



"THEN ONE PAIR OF HANDS  
BEGAN TO CLAP...NOT  
GINGERLY, BUT WITH A  
FORCE THAT STARTLED ME.



"THEN MORE HANDS FOLLOWED...AND SUDDENLY THE  
THEATRE GAVE WAY TO THUNDER."



*Brooklyn*



"THEY STOOD,  
THEY APPLAUDED,  
THEY STOMPED  
THEIR BOOTS,  
THEY BELLOWED.

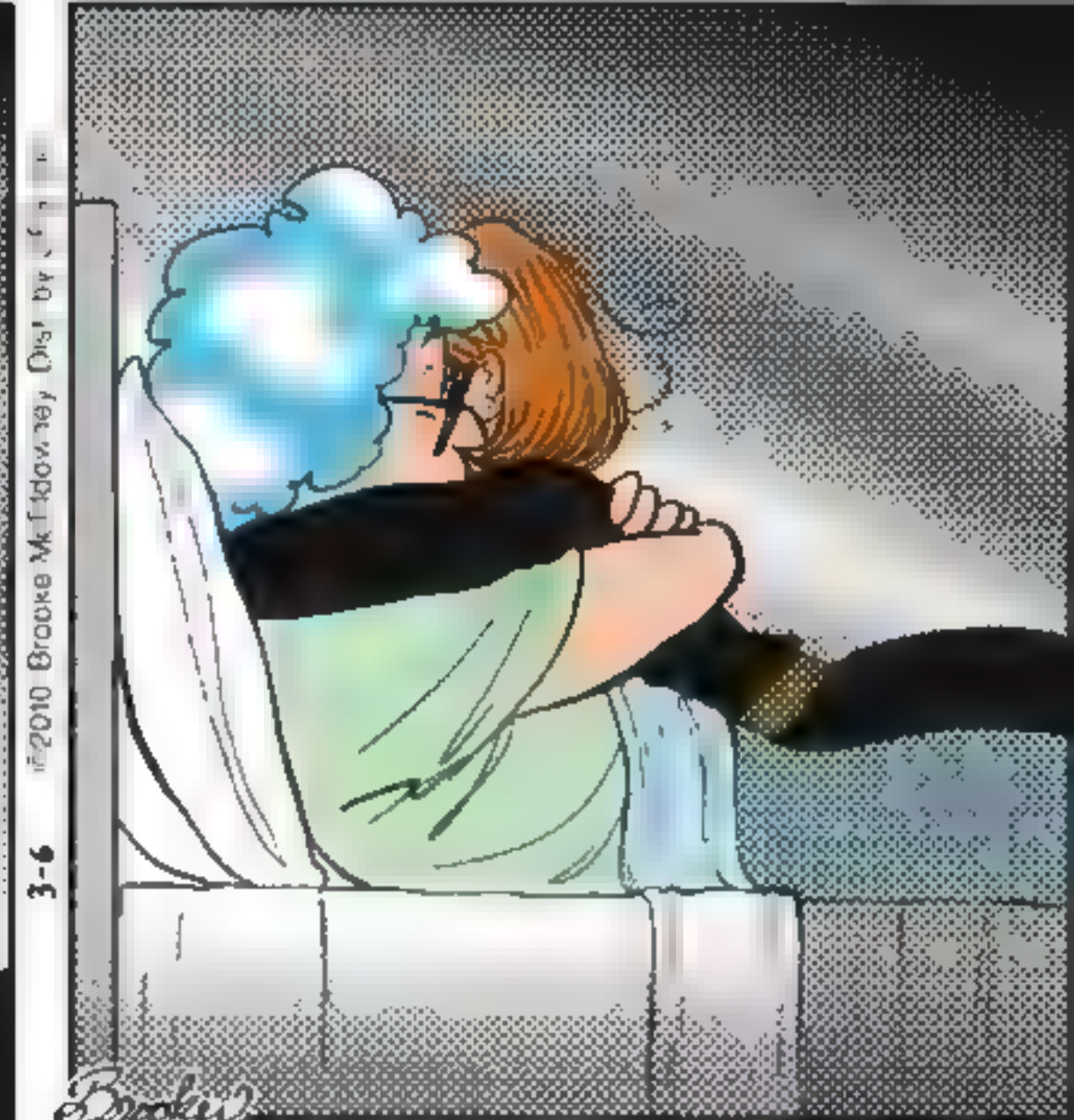
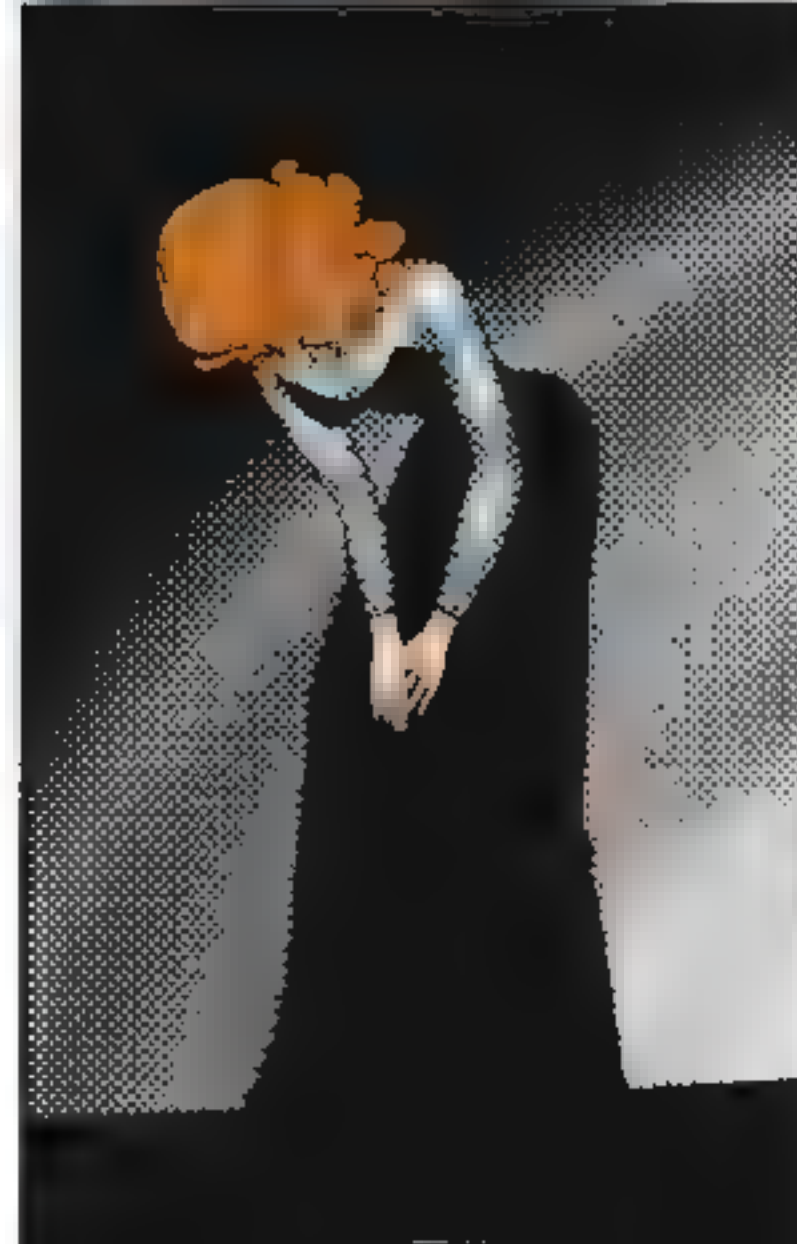
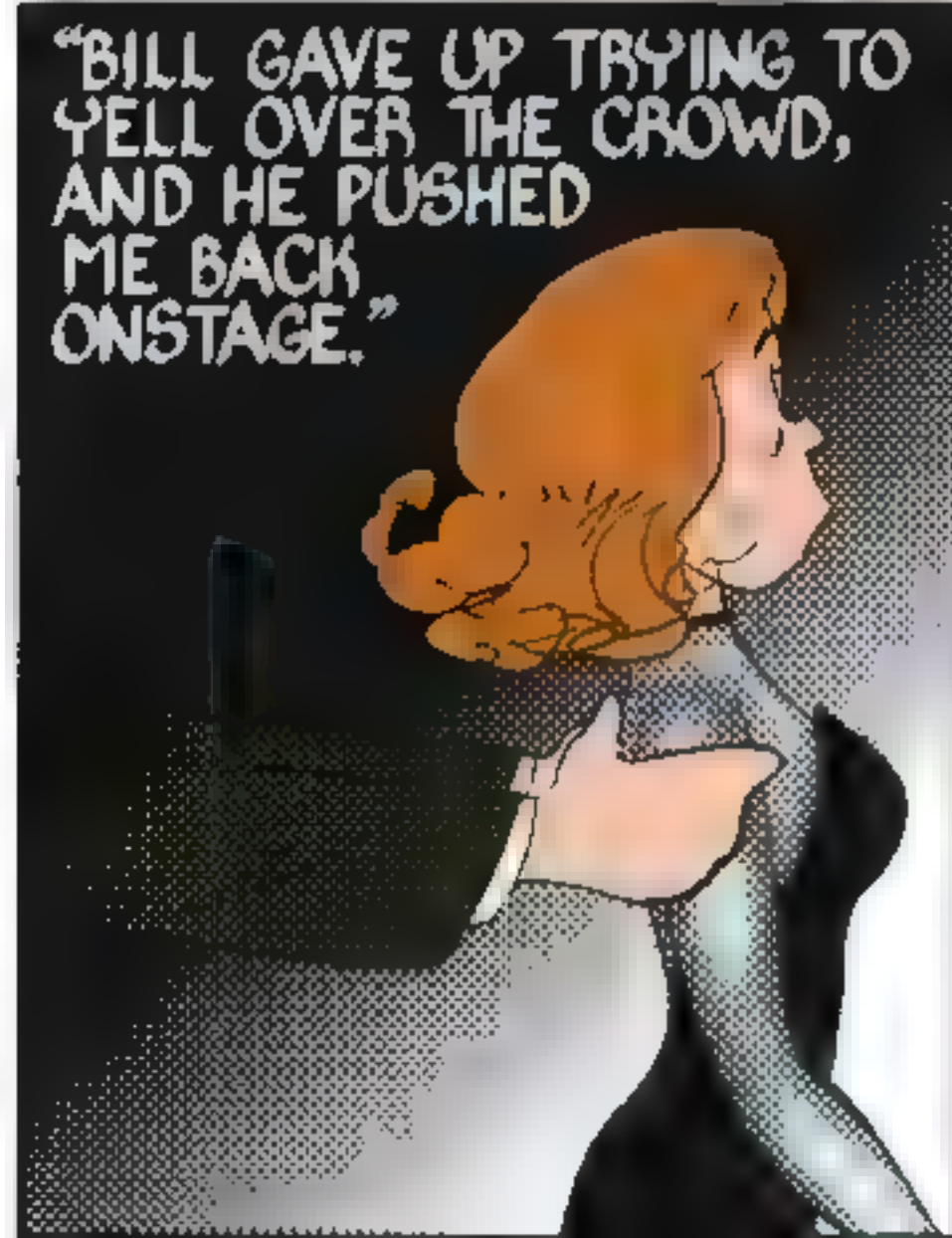
"I HAD NEVER  
HEARD SUCH  
A ROAR IN MY LIFE.  
FOR A MOMENT  
I THOUGHT IT WAS  
AN AIR RAID.

"I BOWED, THEN STEPPED  
OUT OF THE LIGHT AND  
FOUND BILL'S ARMS."

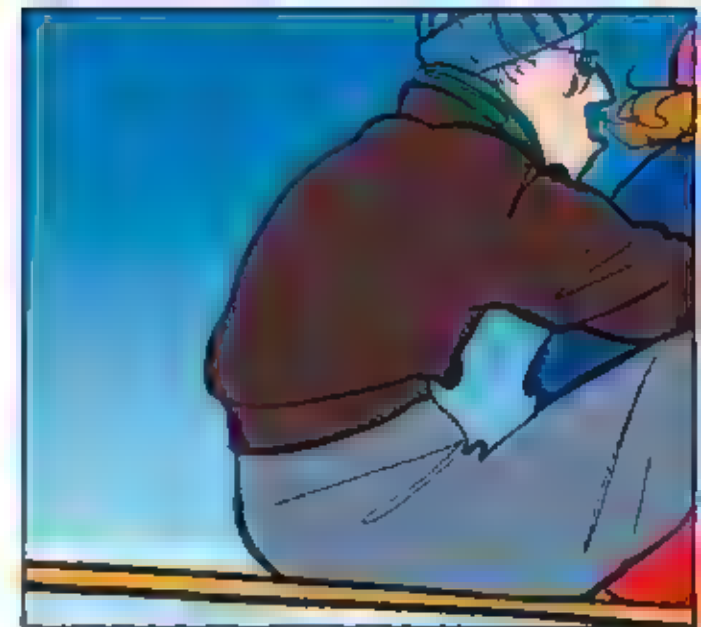
I THINK  
YOU JUST  
LIBERATED  
FRANCE,  
SWEETIE.

WHAT COUNTRY  
ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO  
FOR AN  
ENCORE?





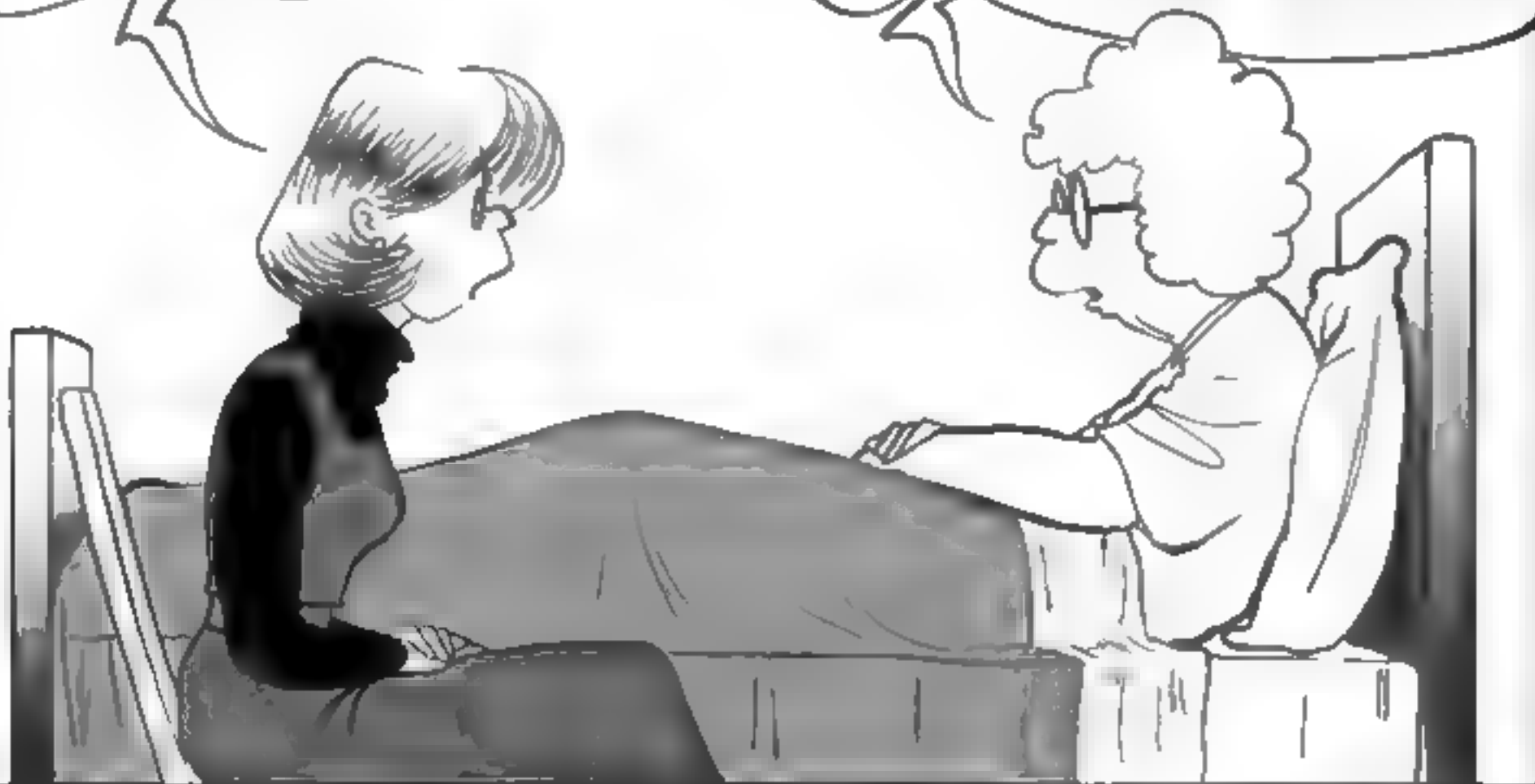






SO...HOW DID LT. KIESL REACT  
WHEN YOU TOLD HIM  
ABOUT THE SHOW?

THAT WAS THE WRINKLE.  
I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE.  
WHILE I WAS TAKING MY  
BOWS ONSTAGE...



"THE COMMANDANT OF THE P.O.W. CAMP  
WAS CIRCULATING BACKSTAGE."



Broder





3-9 12 Brooke McElowney Dist by UFS in

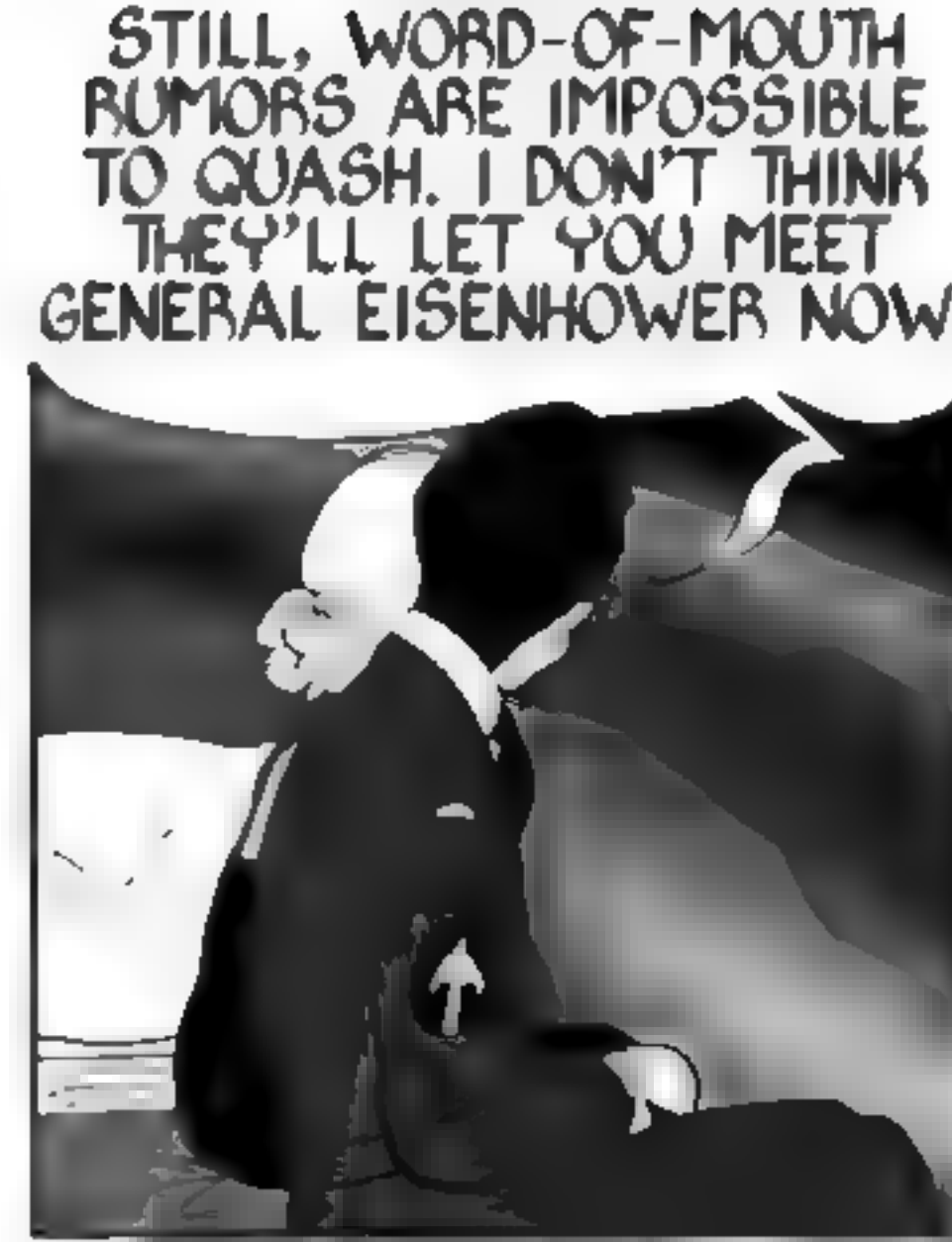




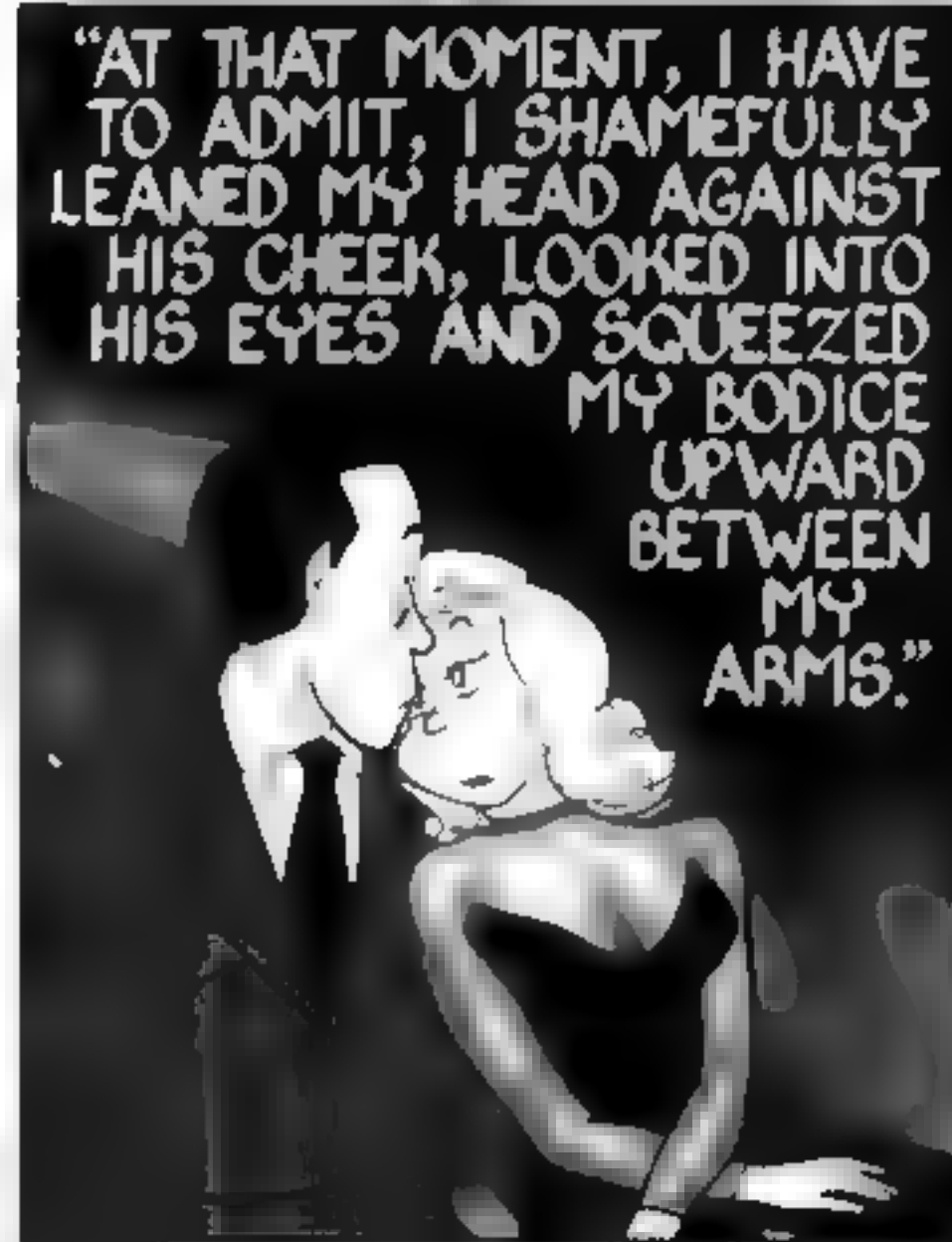


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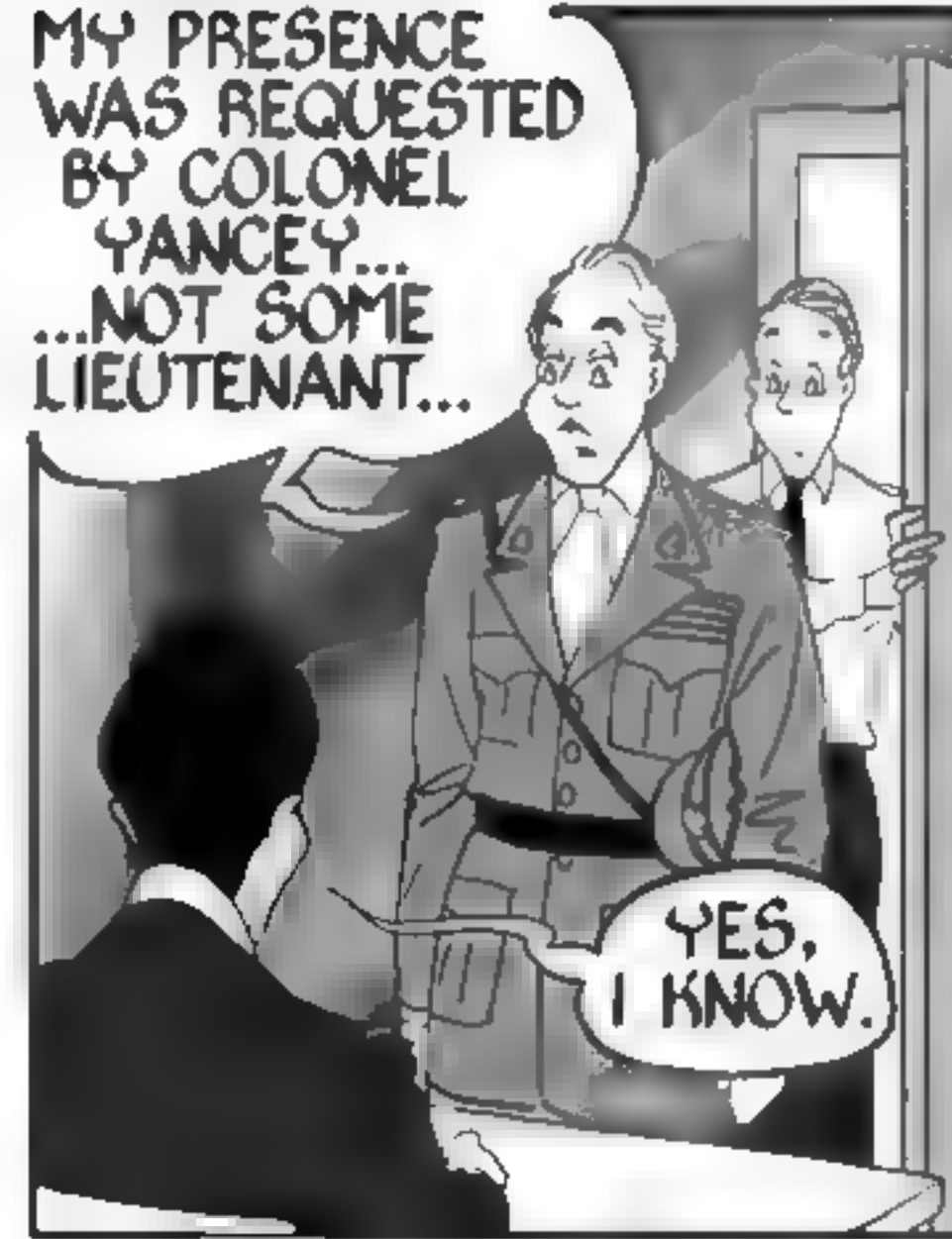
310













YOU WERE SPREADING SOME  
SCURRILOUS LIES LAST  
EVENING ABOUT MISS ERNST.  
I REQUIRE YOU NOW TO  
RETRACT THEM IN WRITING.  
THE CORPORAL WILL TYPE  
THE NECESSARY  
LETTER.



I SHALL  
DO NO  
SUCH  
THING.

3-13  
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WHAT IS THIS YOUNG  
WOMAN?...EISENHOWER'S  
PRIVATE DOXY?...ROMMEL'S?  
OR DOES SHE SHARE HER  
FAVORS WITH THEM BOTH?



GOOD  
DAY,  
LIEUTEN-  
ANT.

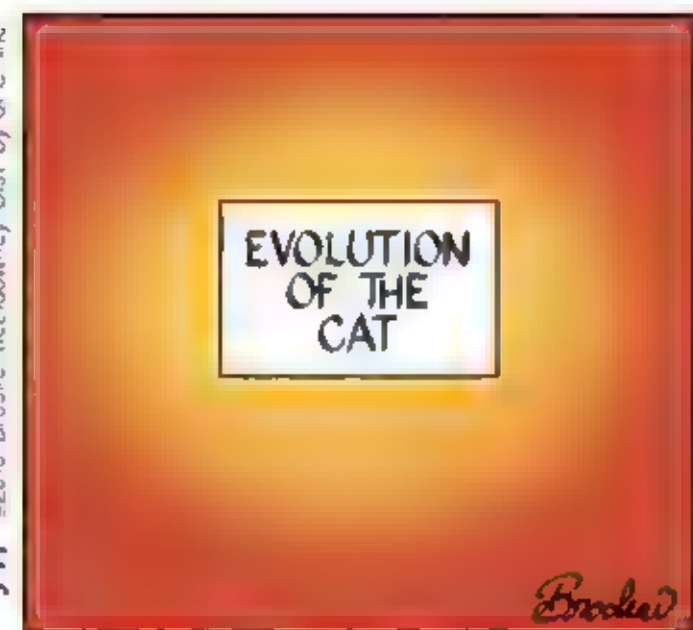
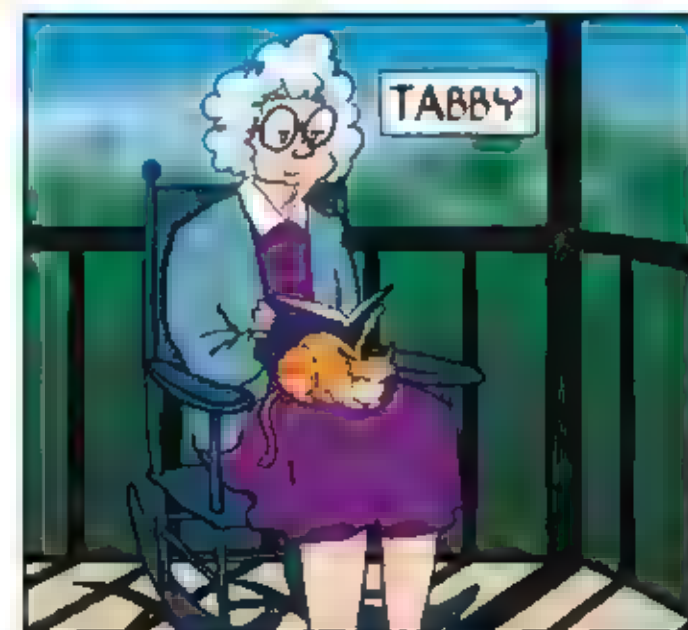
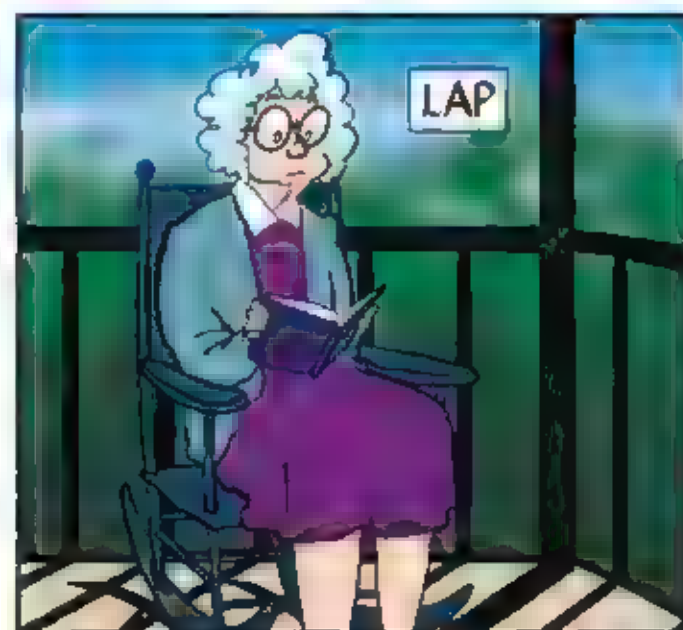
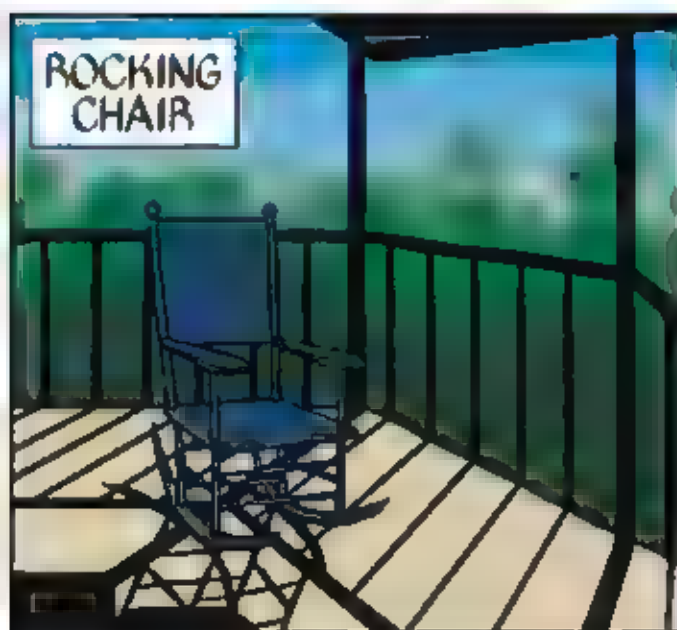
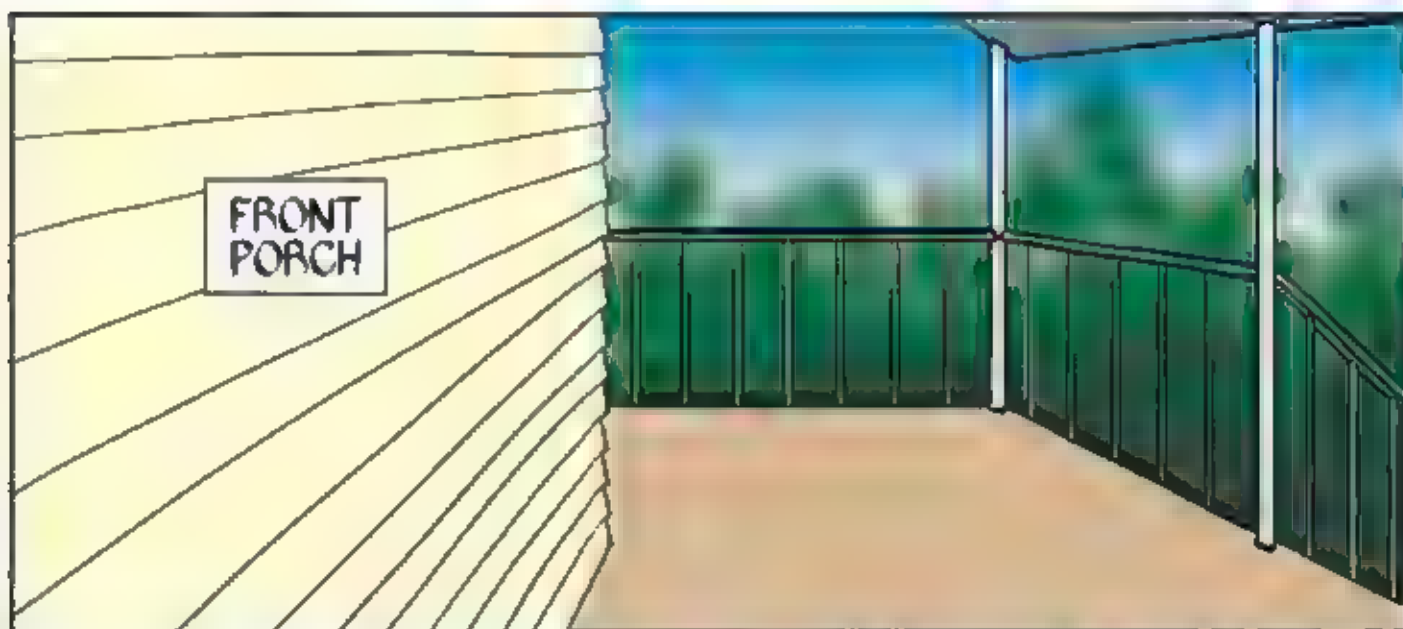
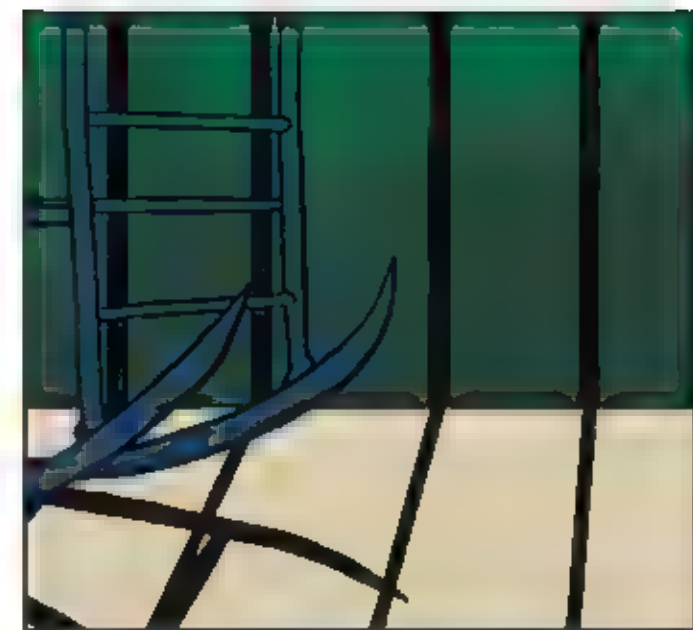
THE PLEASURE  
IS ALL MINE.

JUST ONE OTHER  
THING, COLONEL...

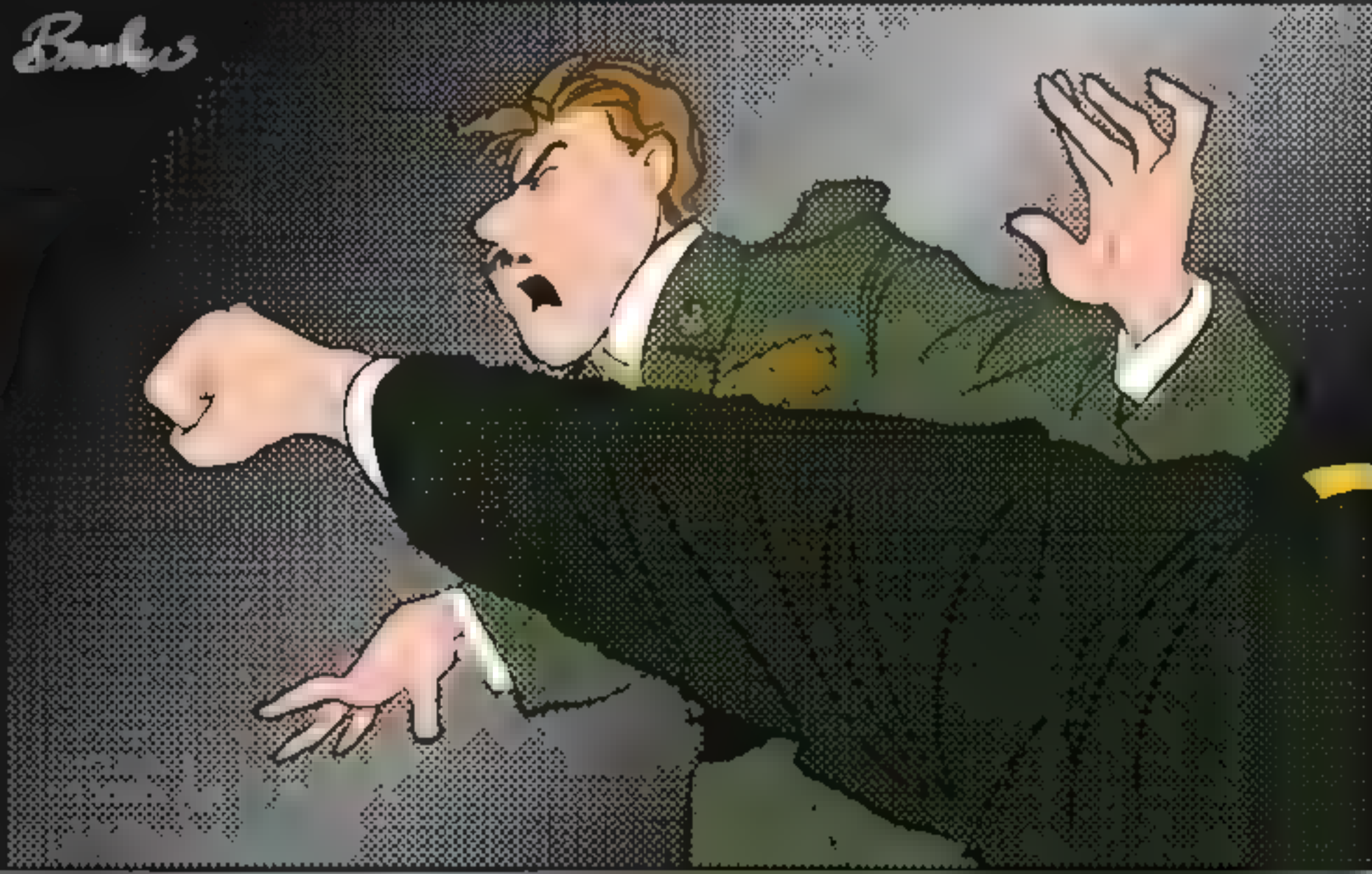


Brooke

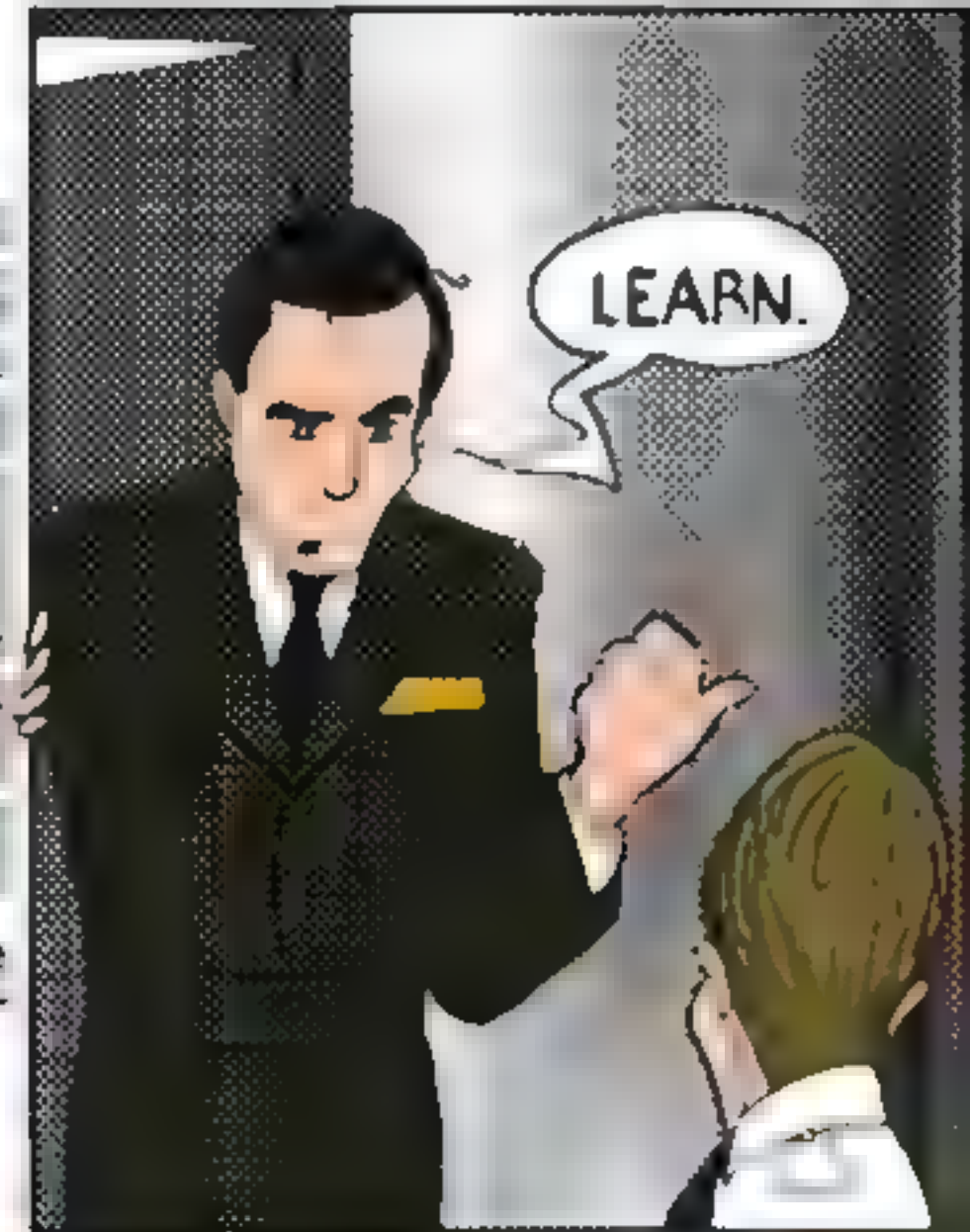
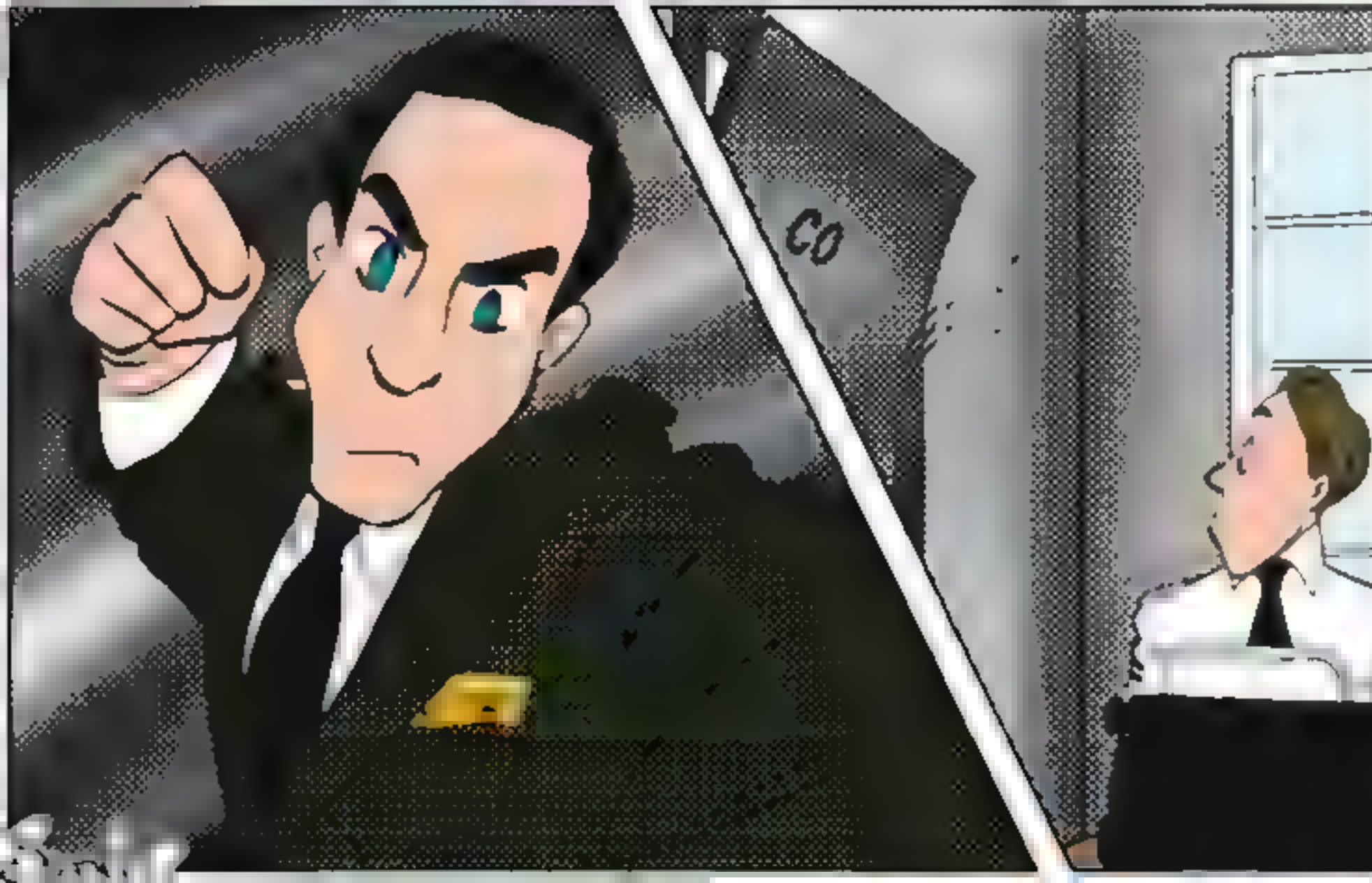






















IS THERE A SPECIFIC  
REASON YOU BEAT  
UP THE COLONEL,  
LIEUTENANT?

HE MALIGNED  
A CIVILIAN  
WHO WAS  
GATHERING  
INTELLIGENCE  
UNDER MY  
DIRECTION,  
SIR.

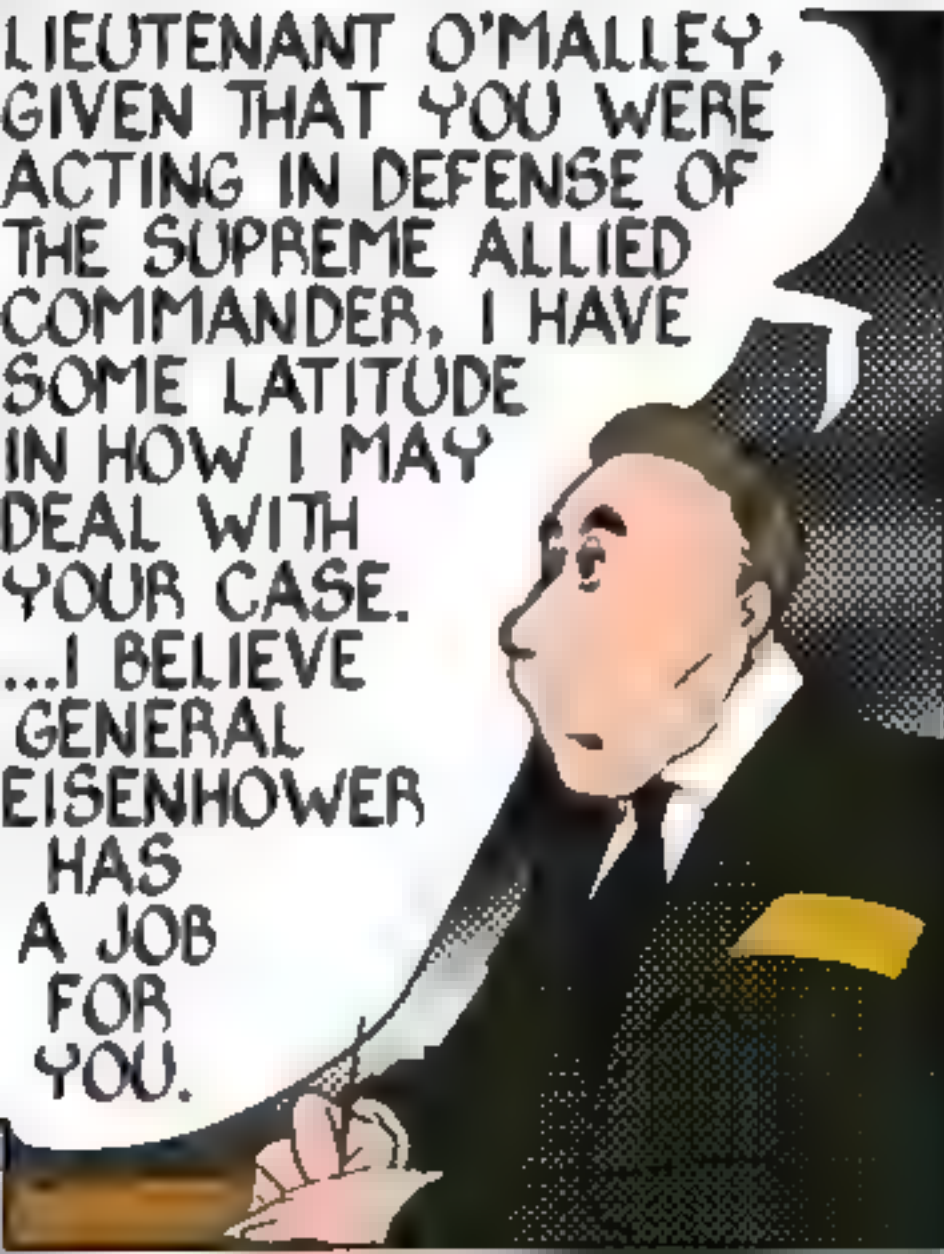
HE SAID SHE  
WAS EISENHOWER'S  
DOXY.

SO THIS  
WAS OVER  
A WOMAN?

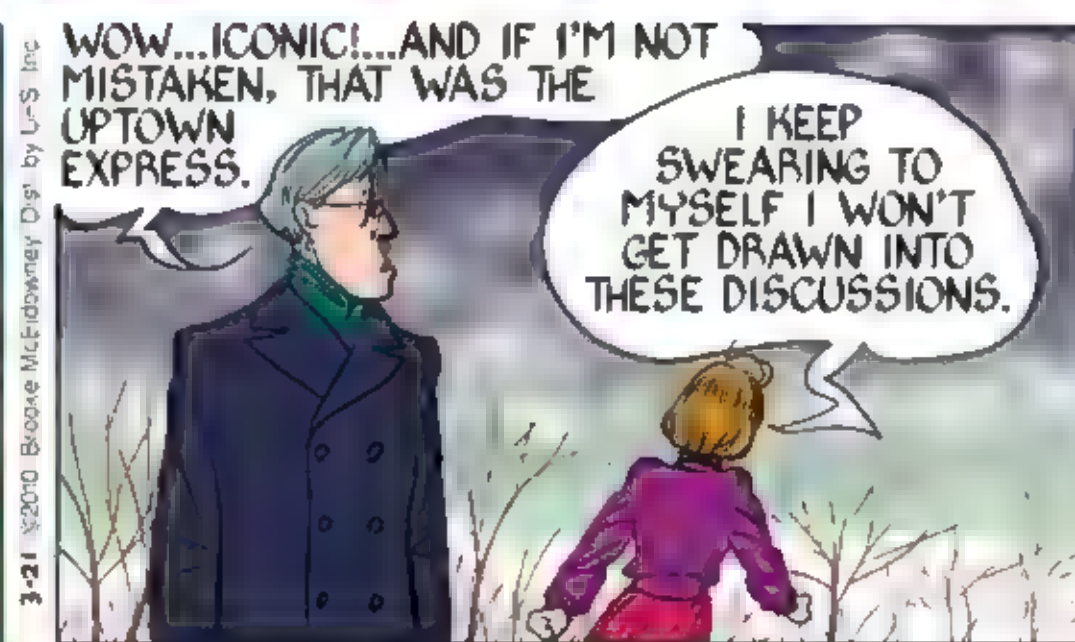
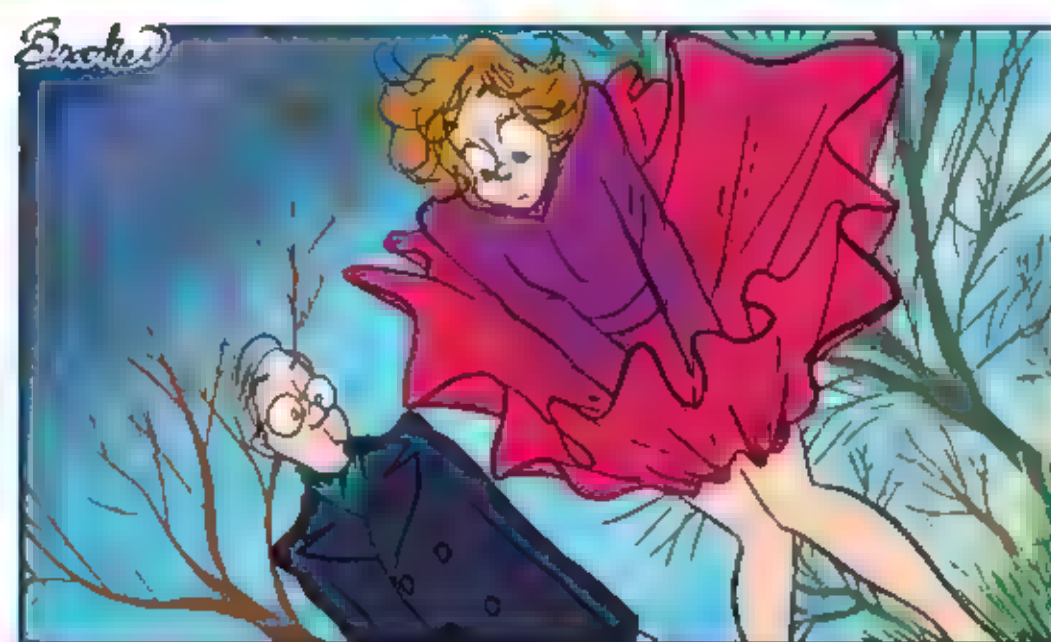
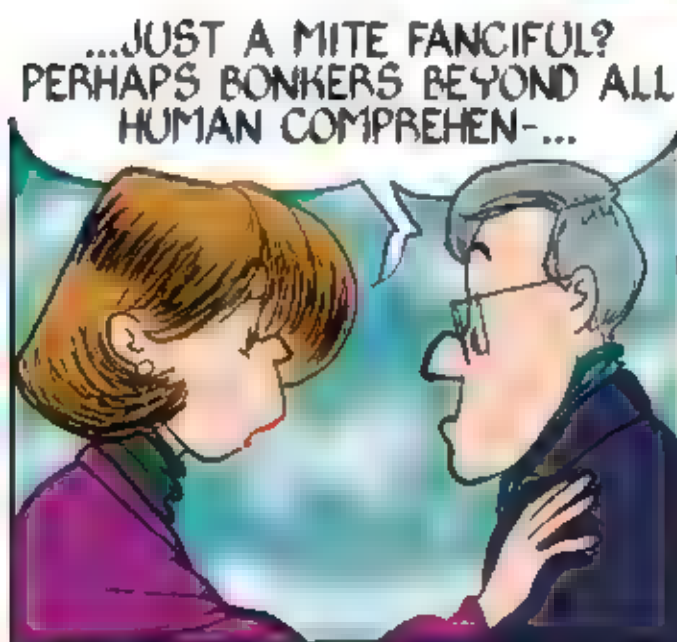
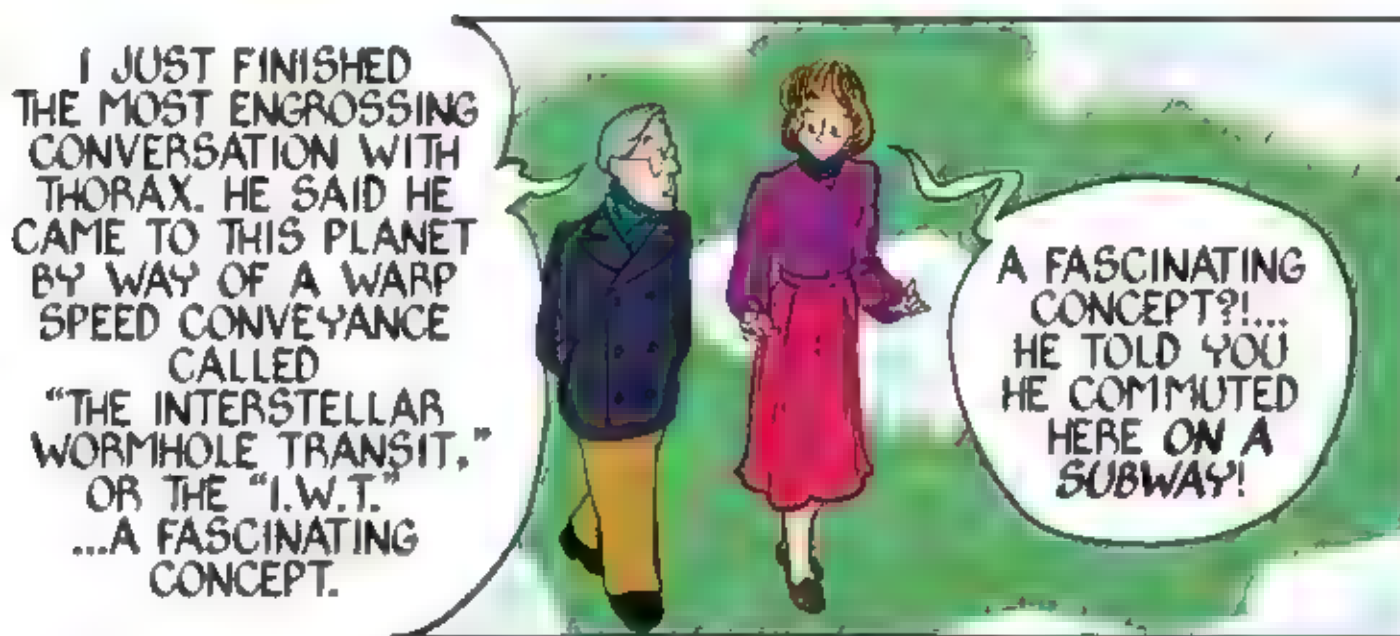
I WON'T  
HEAR ANYBODY  
DISPARAGE  
GENERAL  
EISENHOWER,  
SIR.

YES,  
I'M SURE  
HE'S GLAD  
OF IT.











SO, COLONEL HORROCKS,  
I UNDERSTAND YOU WISH  
TO PRESS CHARGES?

AGAINST THAT  
LIEUTENANT  
OF YOURS FOR  
ASSAULTING ME.  
...HE BELONGS  
IN PRISON.

I SEE HE CONNECTED RATHER  
WELL WITH YOU. HE HAD NO  
CUTS OR CONTUSIONS OF  
HIS OWN, HOWEVER.

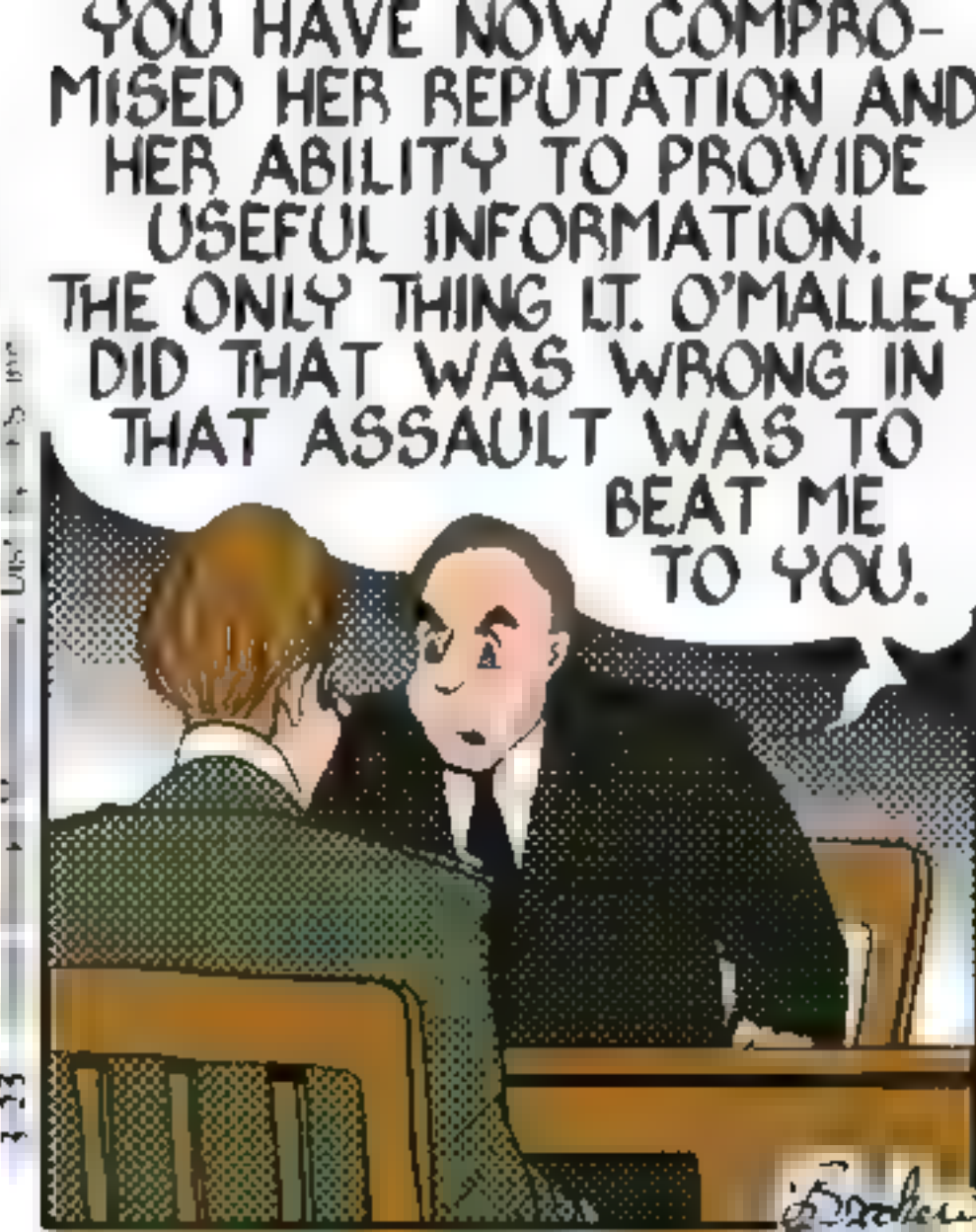
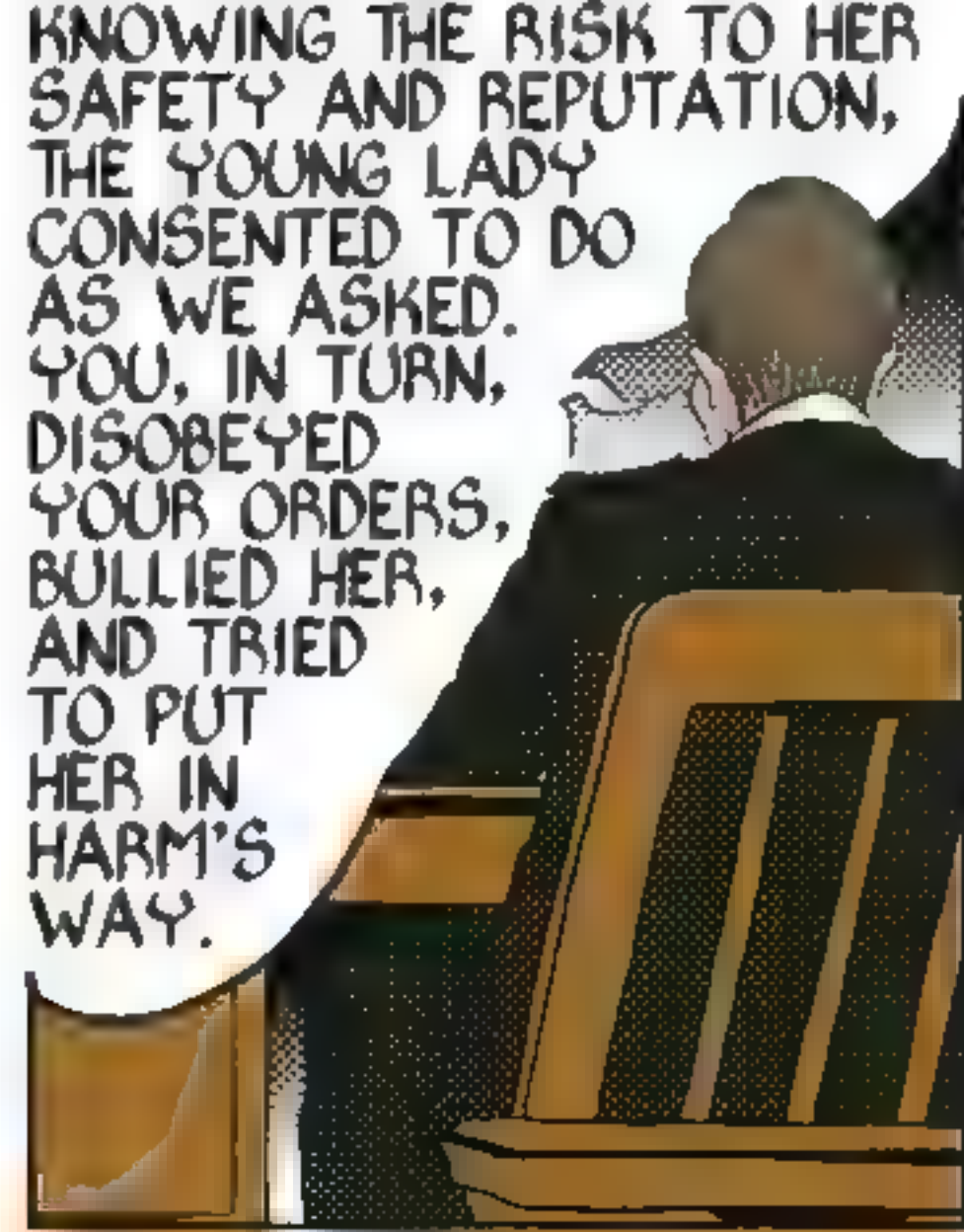
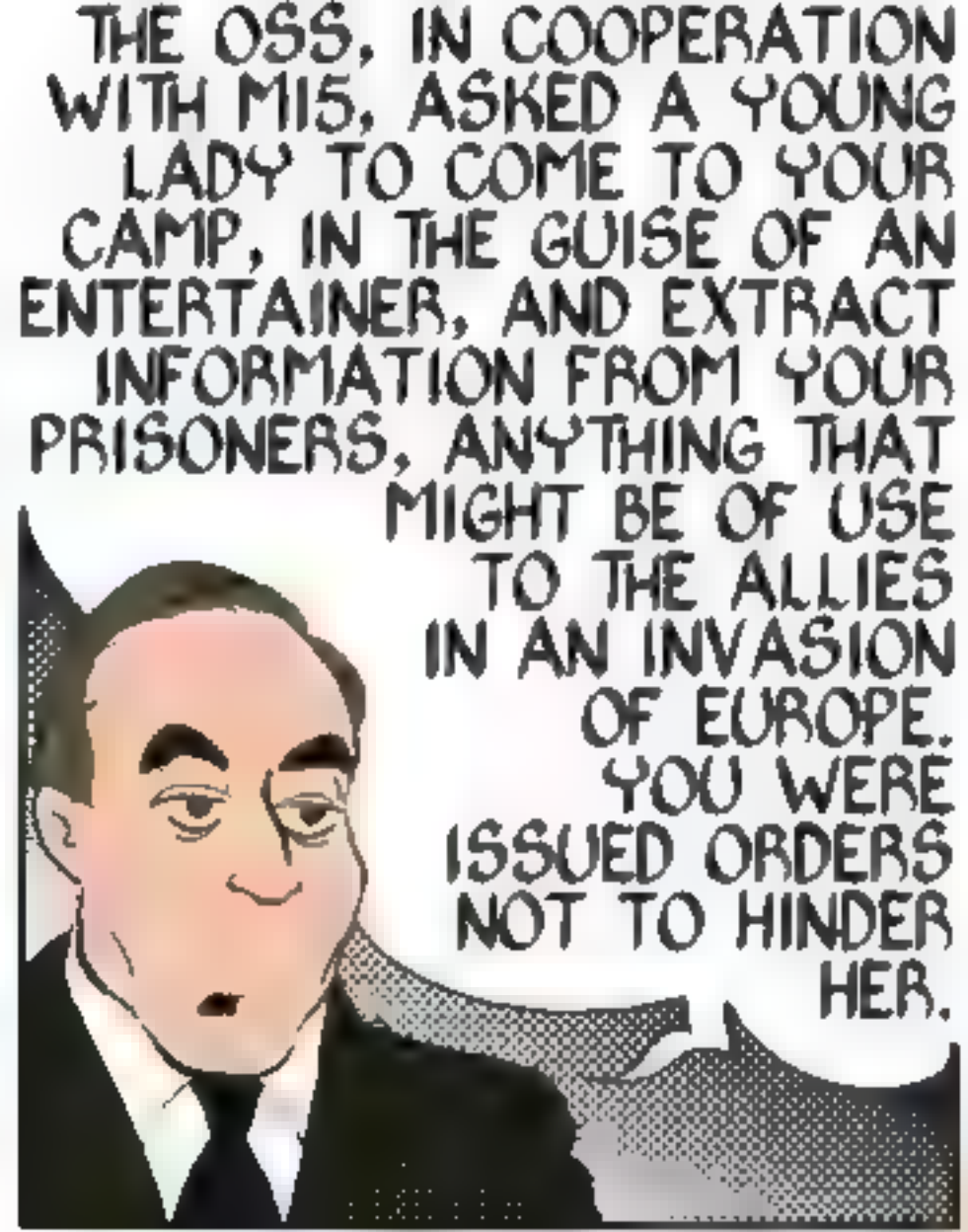
WELL,  
I...

I JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT  
PRIVATE O'MALLEY WAS IN THE FIRST WAVE  
OF SOLDIERS LANDING ON UTAH BEACH, AND CITED  
FOR ACTS OF CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY. HE IS NOW  
MISSING IN ACTION. HOWEVER,  
ACCOUNTING FOR ALL  
THE BODIES IS AS YET  
INCOMPLETE.

IF HE IS ALIVE, WE WILL BRING  
HIM BACK AFTER HE FINISHES DEFENDING  
YOUR COUNTRY, SO HE MAY BE COURT-  
MARTIALED FOR BEATING UP A COWARD.

For 15 Eddaway Dist by UFS Inc







ORDERS TO THE  
LETTER AS WELL  
AS IN SPIRIT,  
I SHALL HAVE  
YOUR GUTS  
FOR GARTERS.  
IS THAT  
CLEAR?

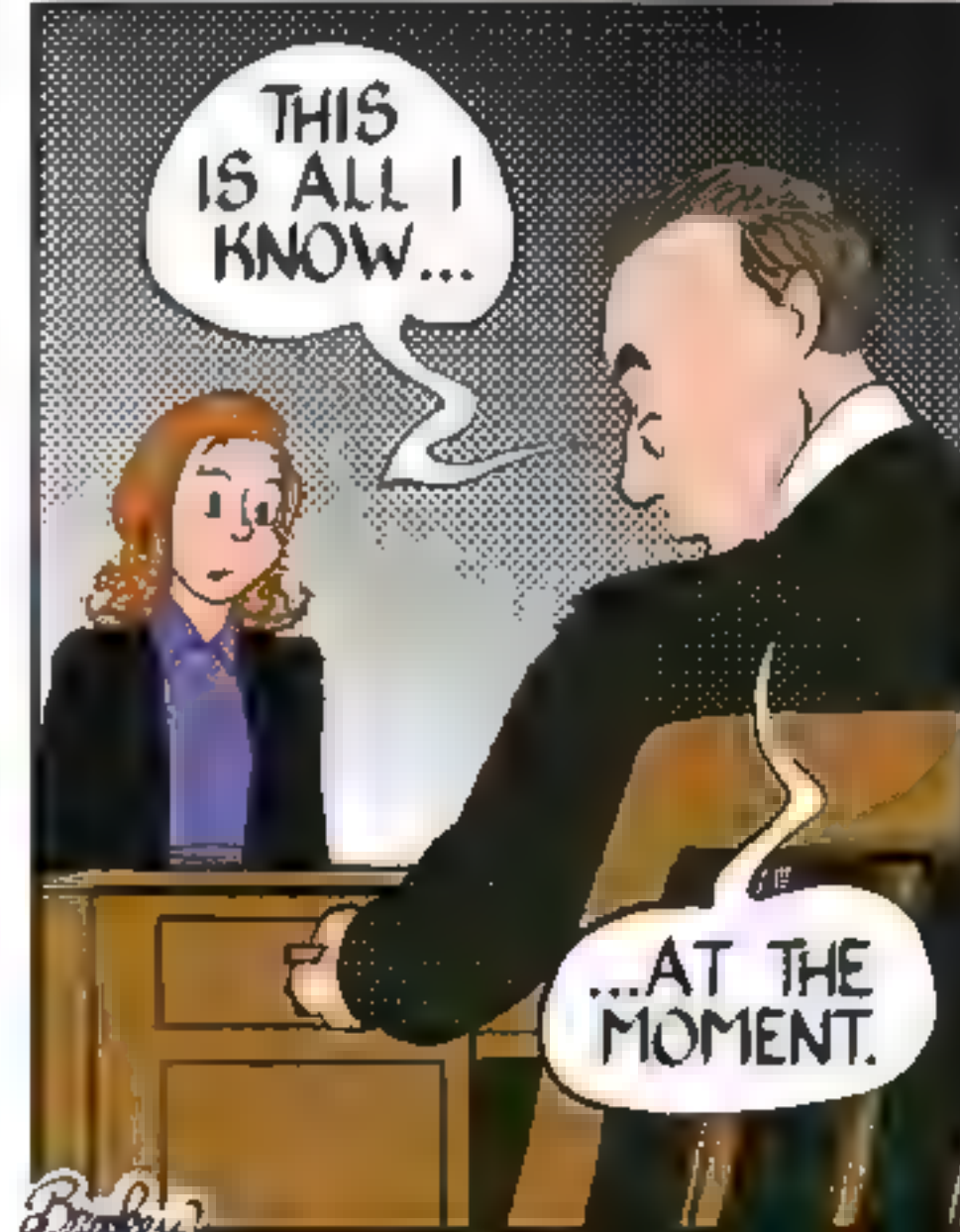
yes,  
colonel.

LOVELY MEETING YOU.

Baker

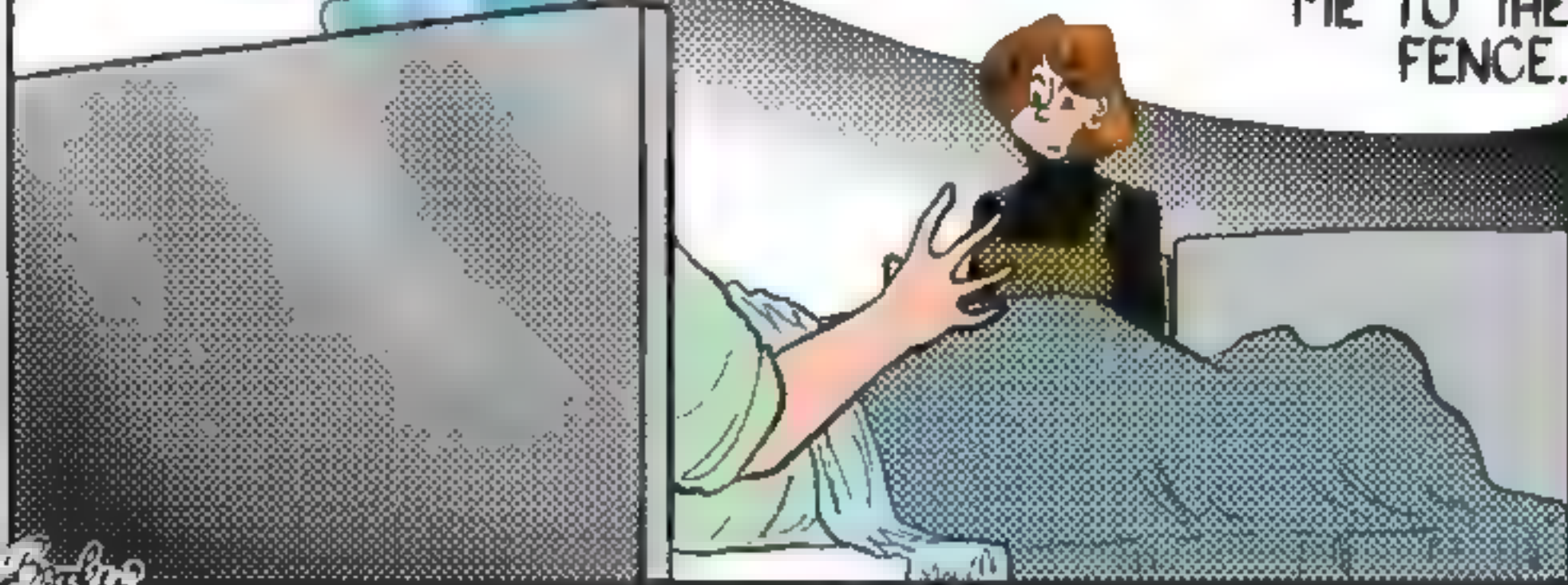
LOVELY  
MEETING  
YOU.



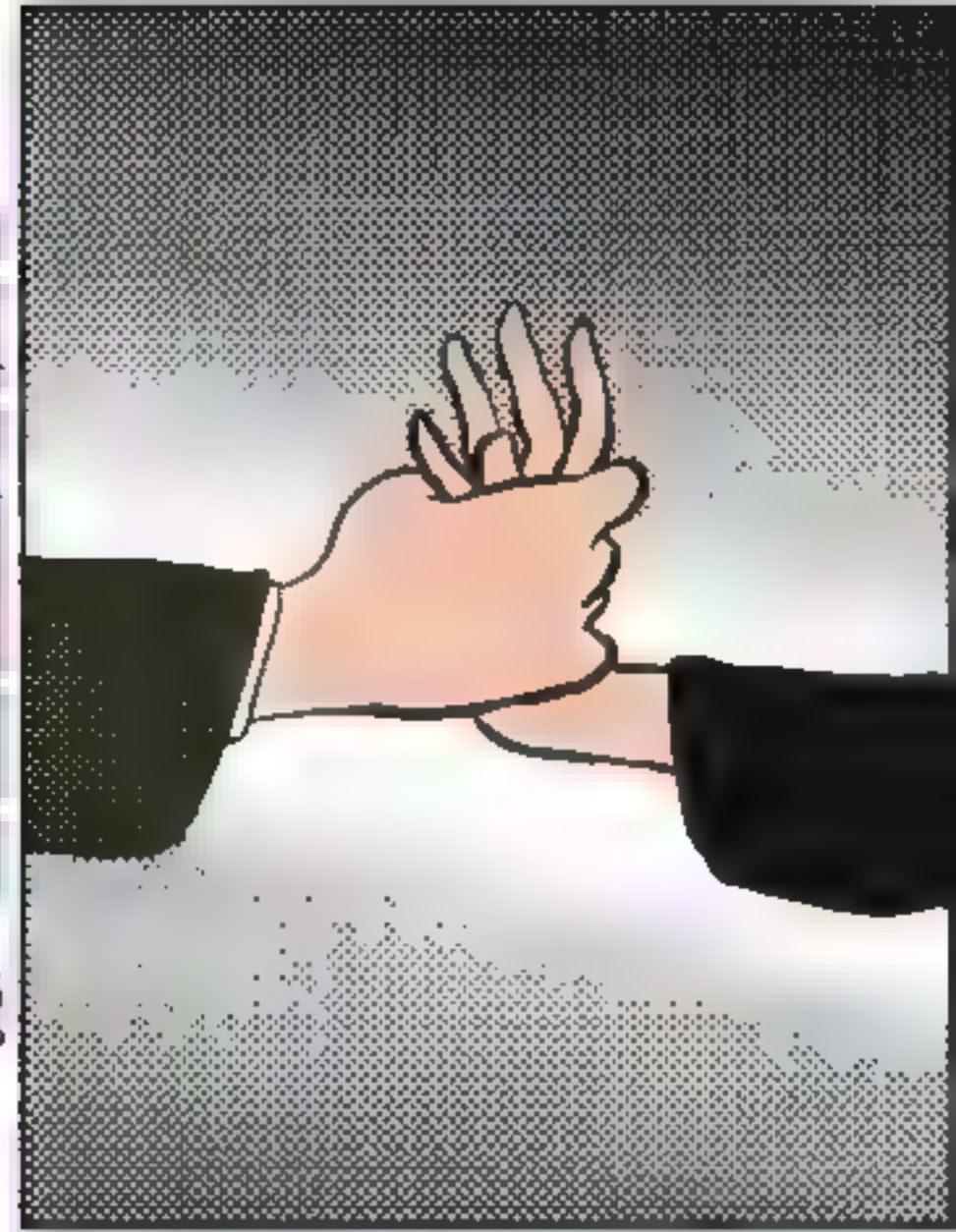
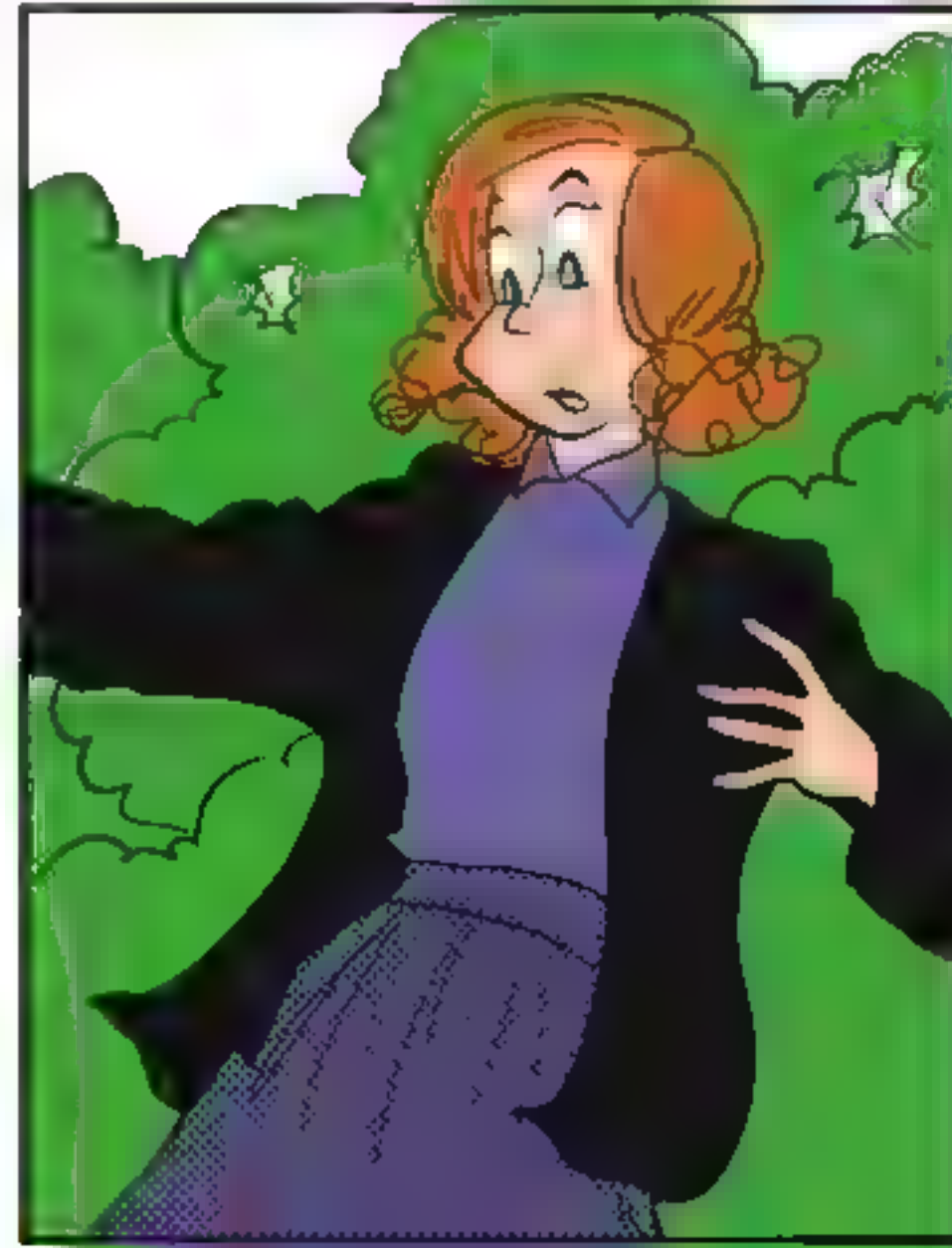
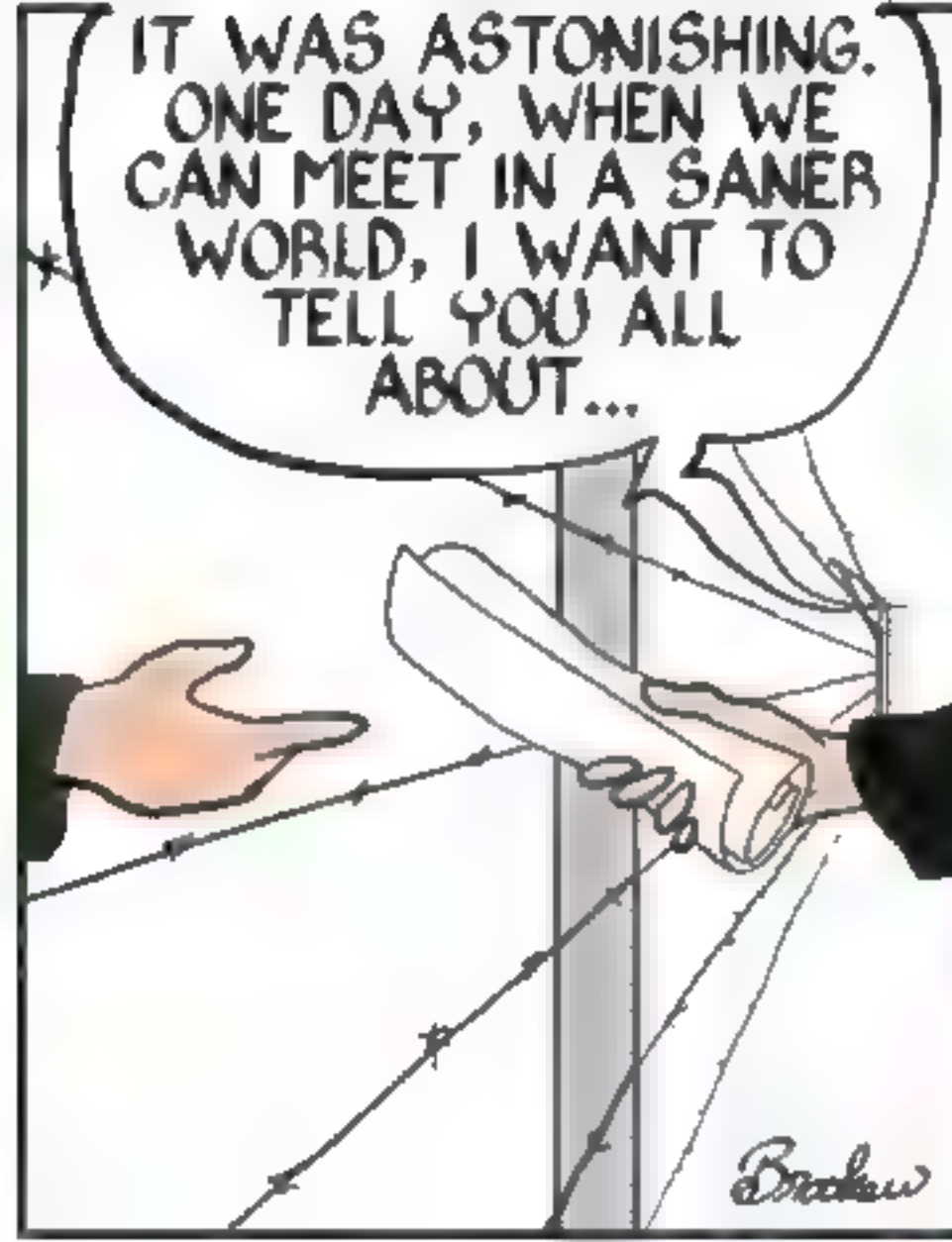




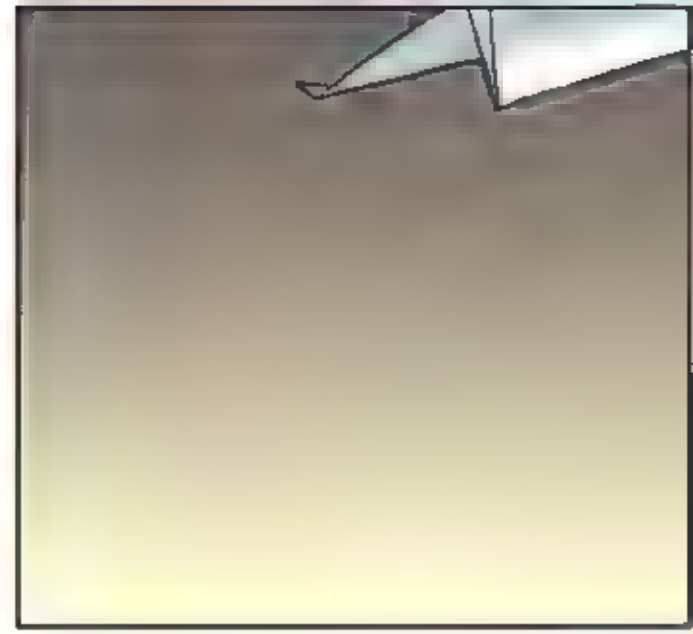
BY THAT TIME, THE P.O.W. CAMPS WERE BEGINNING TO BRIM WITH CAPTURED SOLDIERS, AND MORE CAMPS WERE BEING BUILT ALL OVER BRITAIN. I WENT OUT TO KIESL'S CAMP IN HOPES THAT I MIGHT SEE HIM. THEY DIDN'T ALLOW ME TO ENTER, BUT ONE OF THE GUARDS TOOK ME TO THE FENCE.



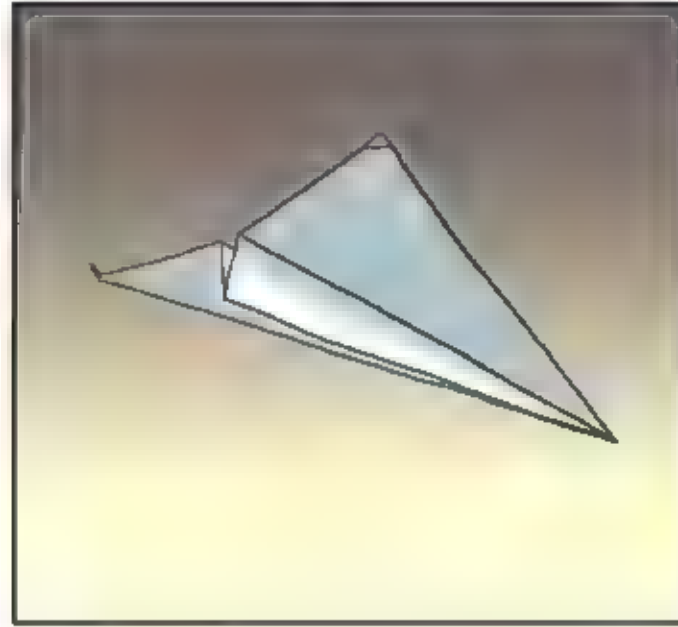
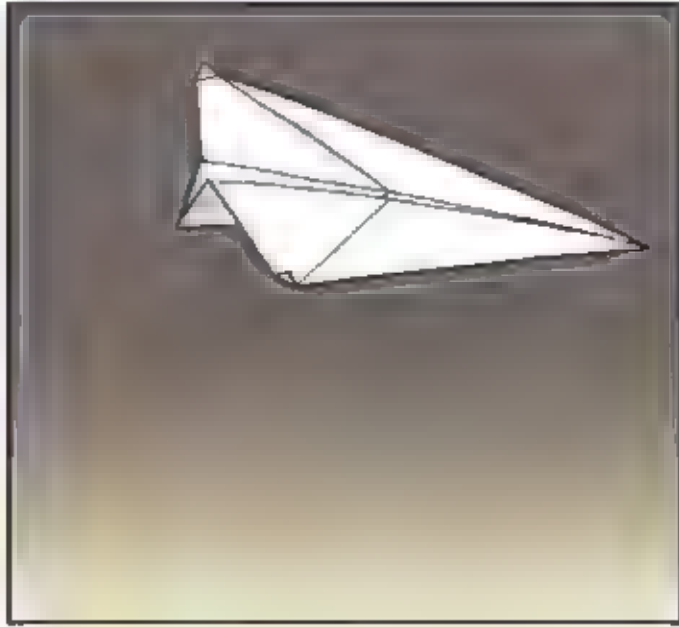
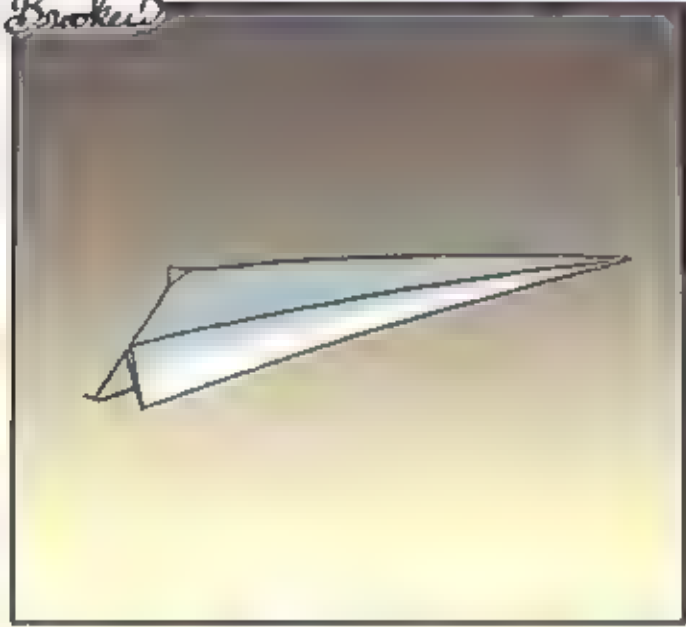




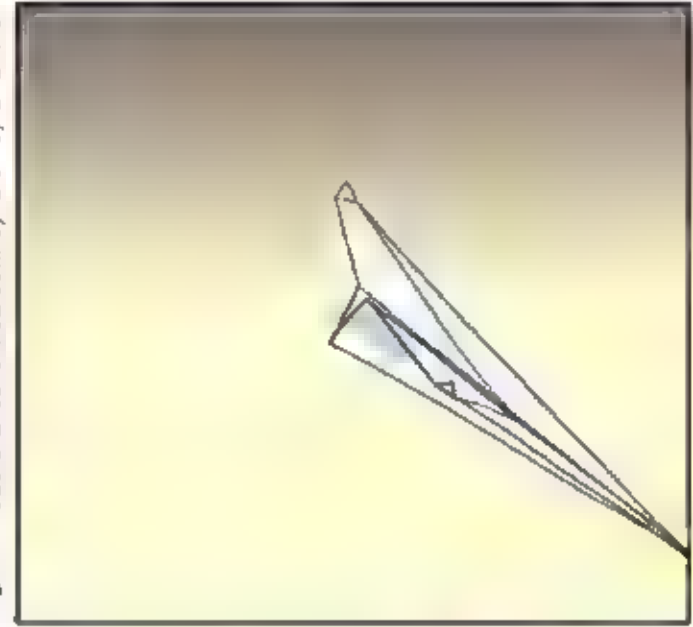




Brooke



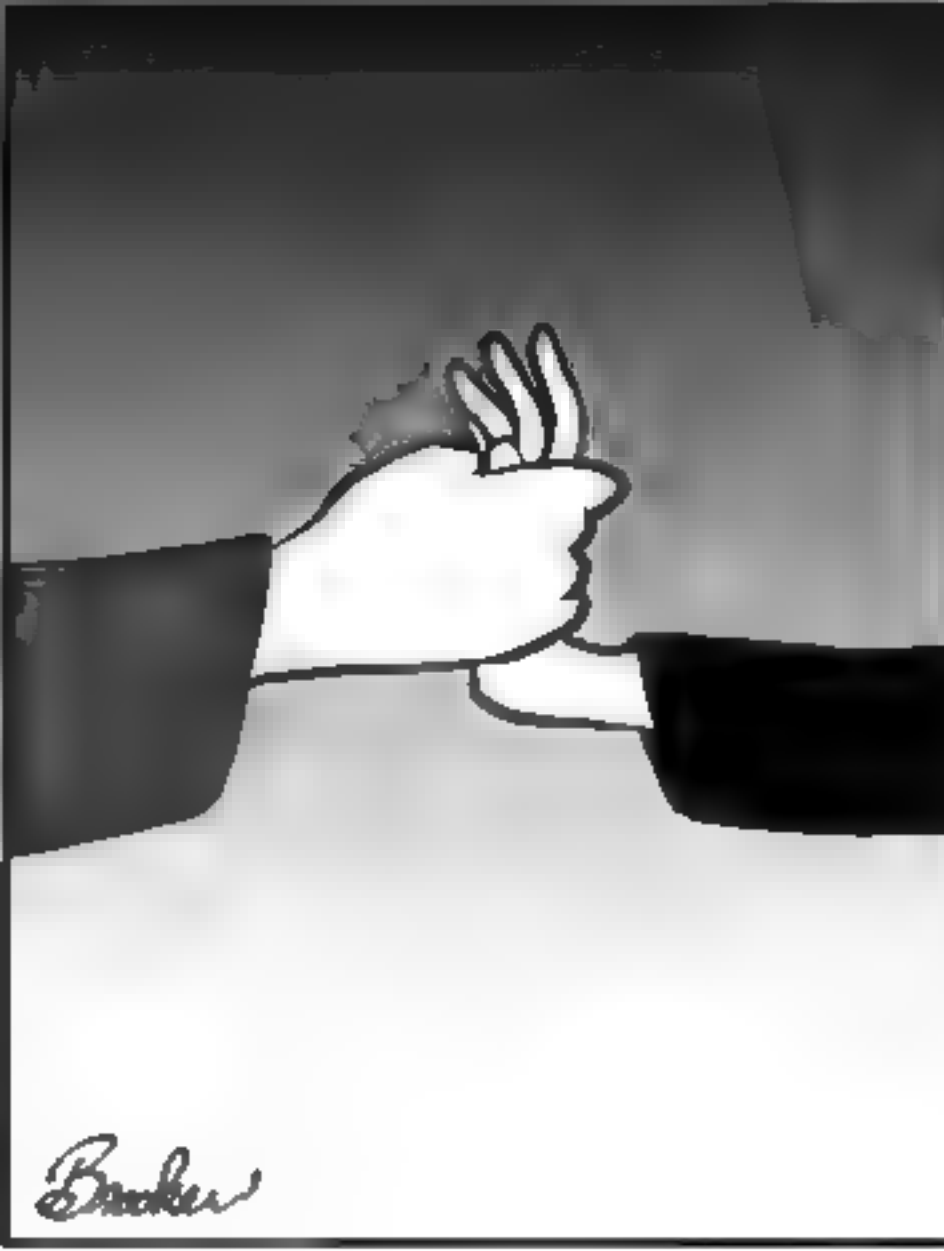
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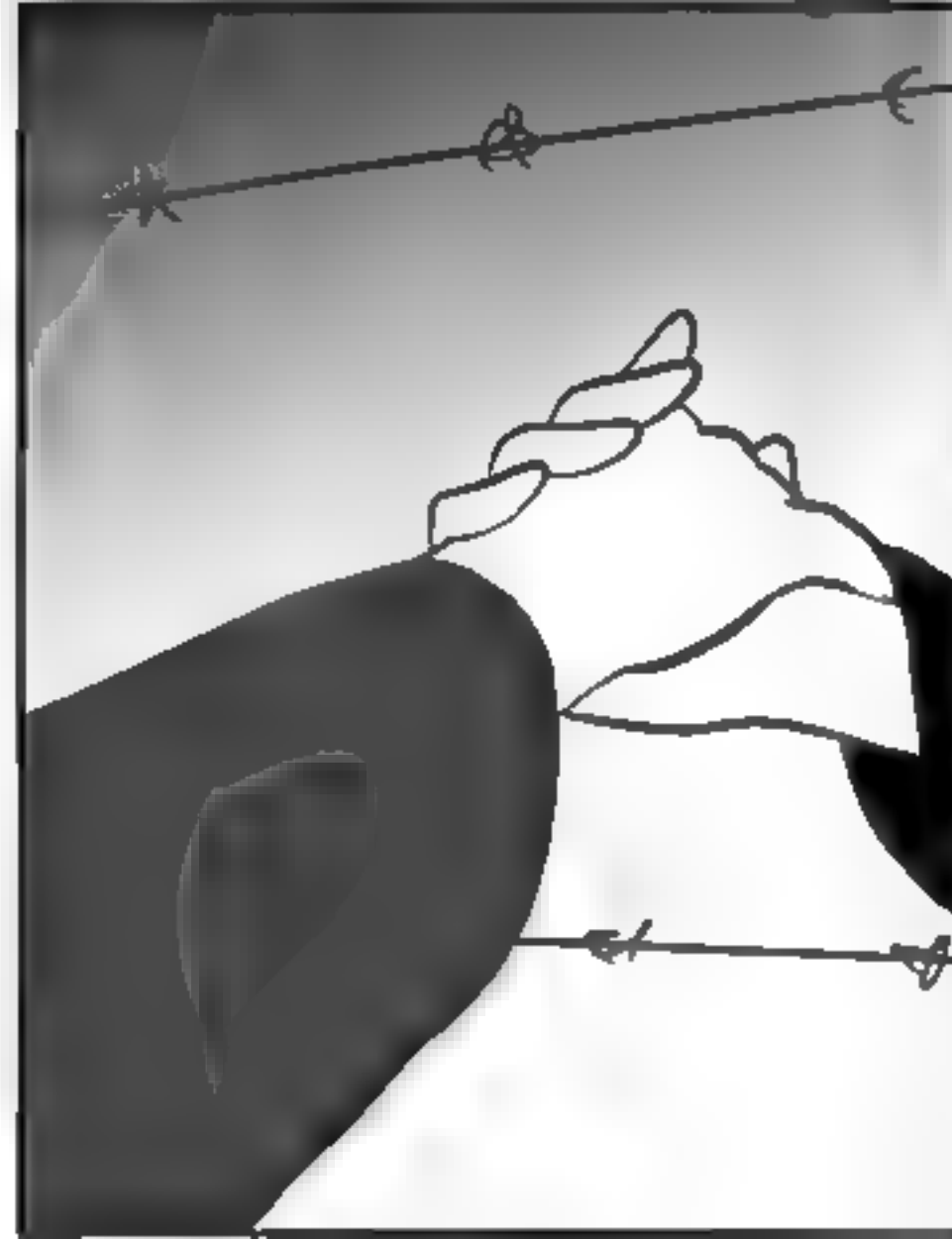
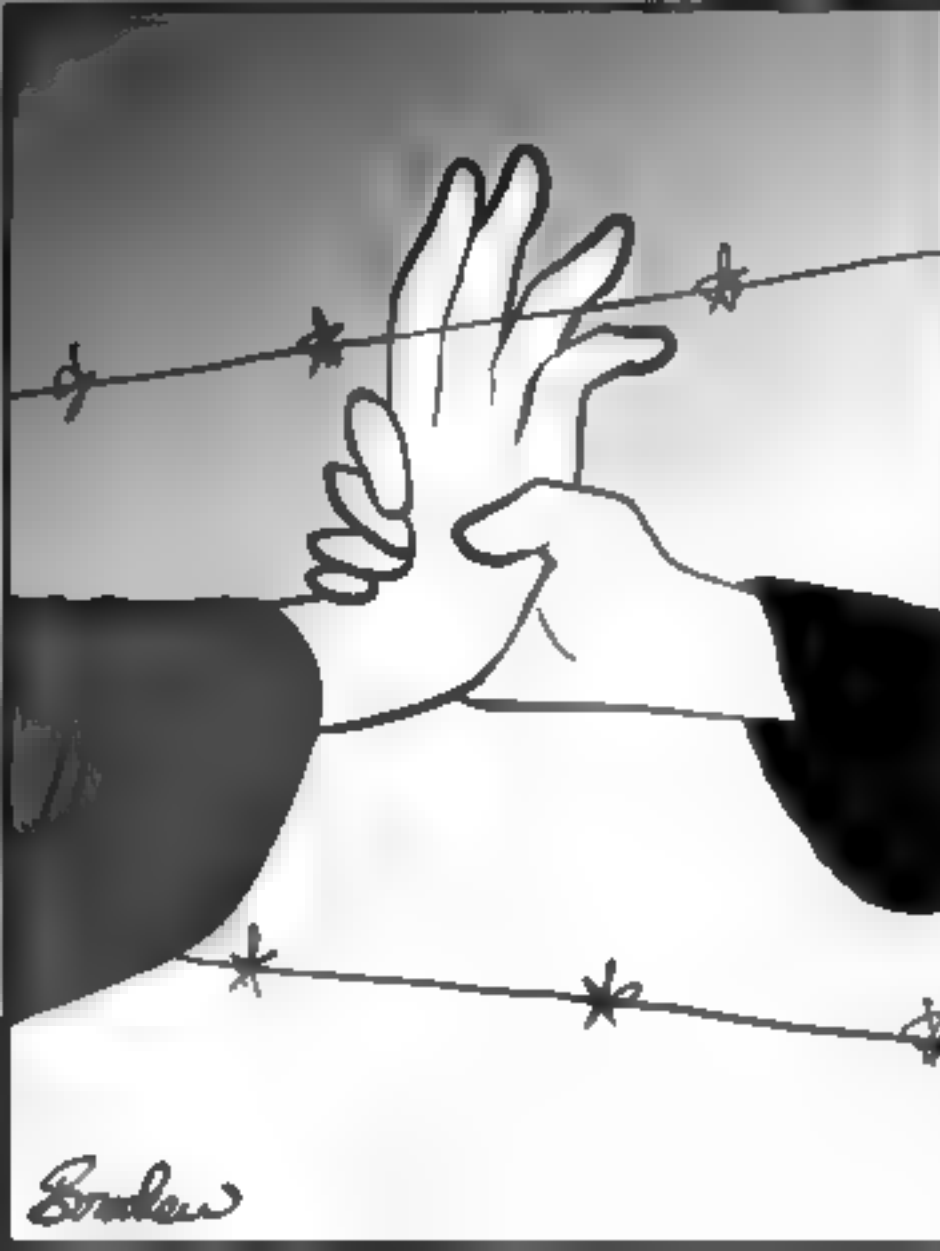




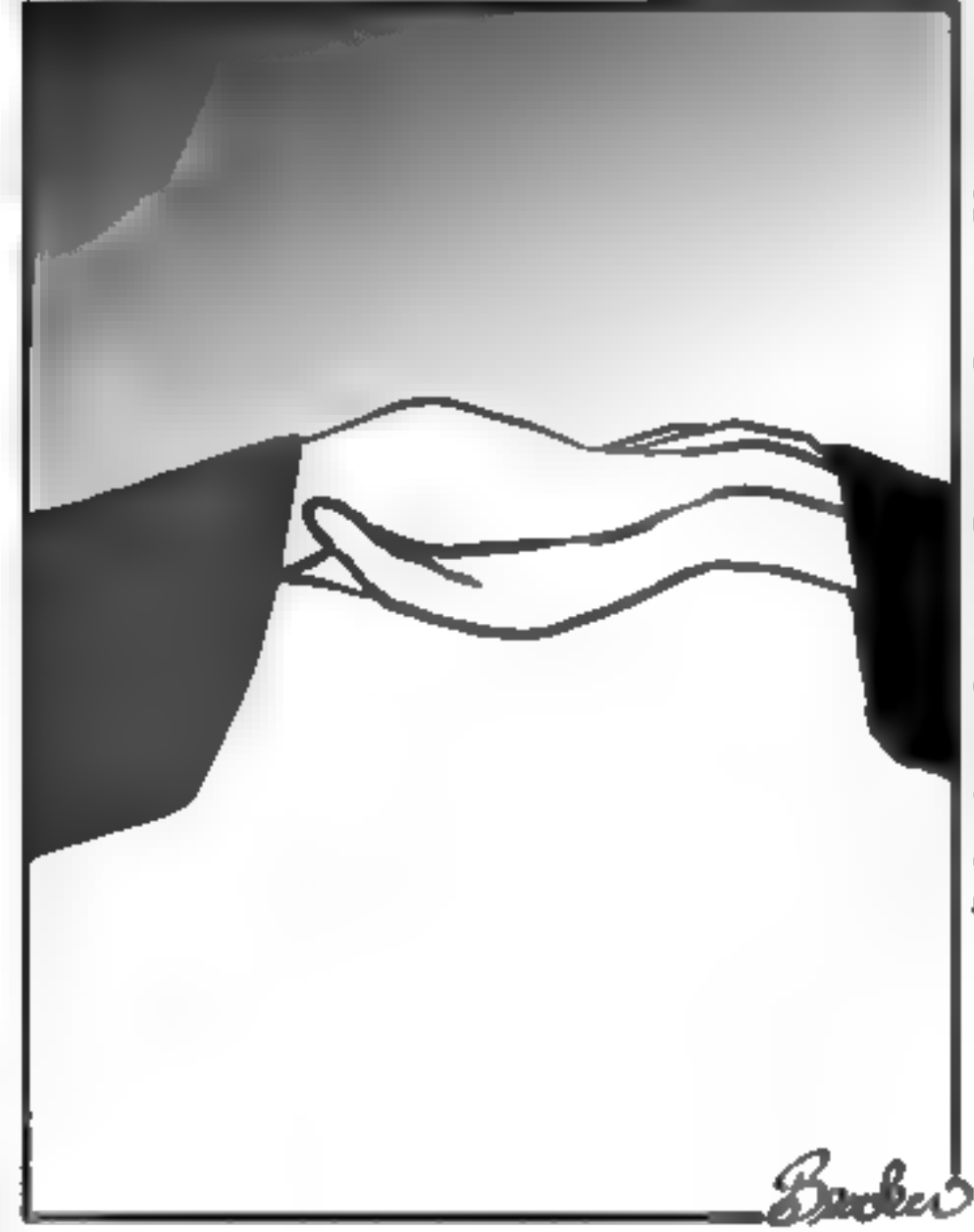
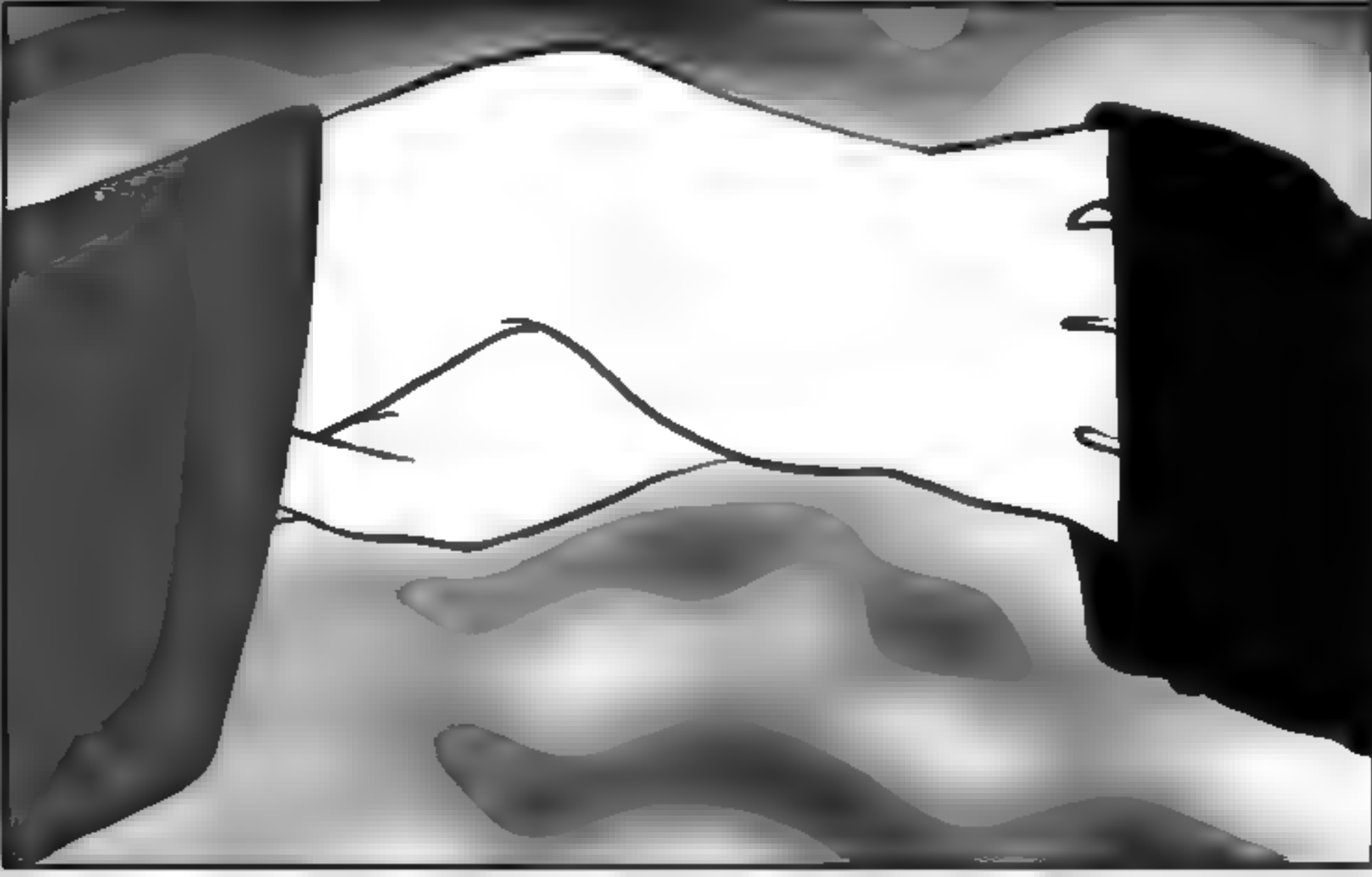
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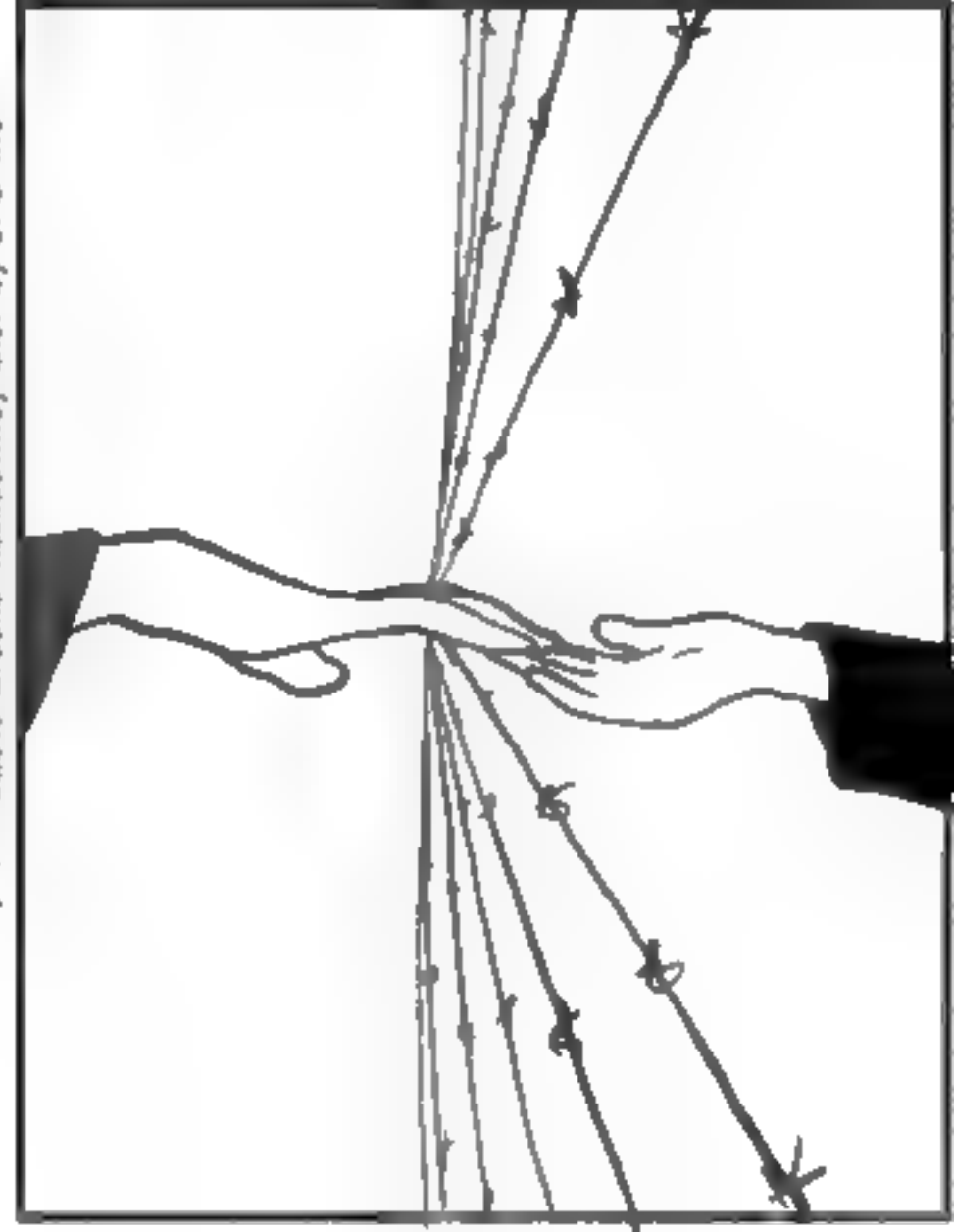




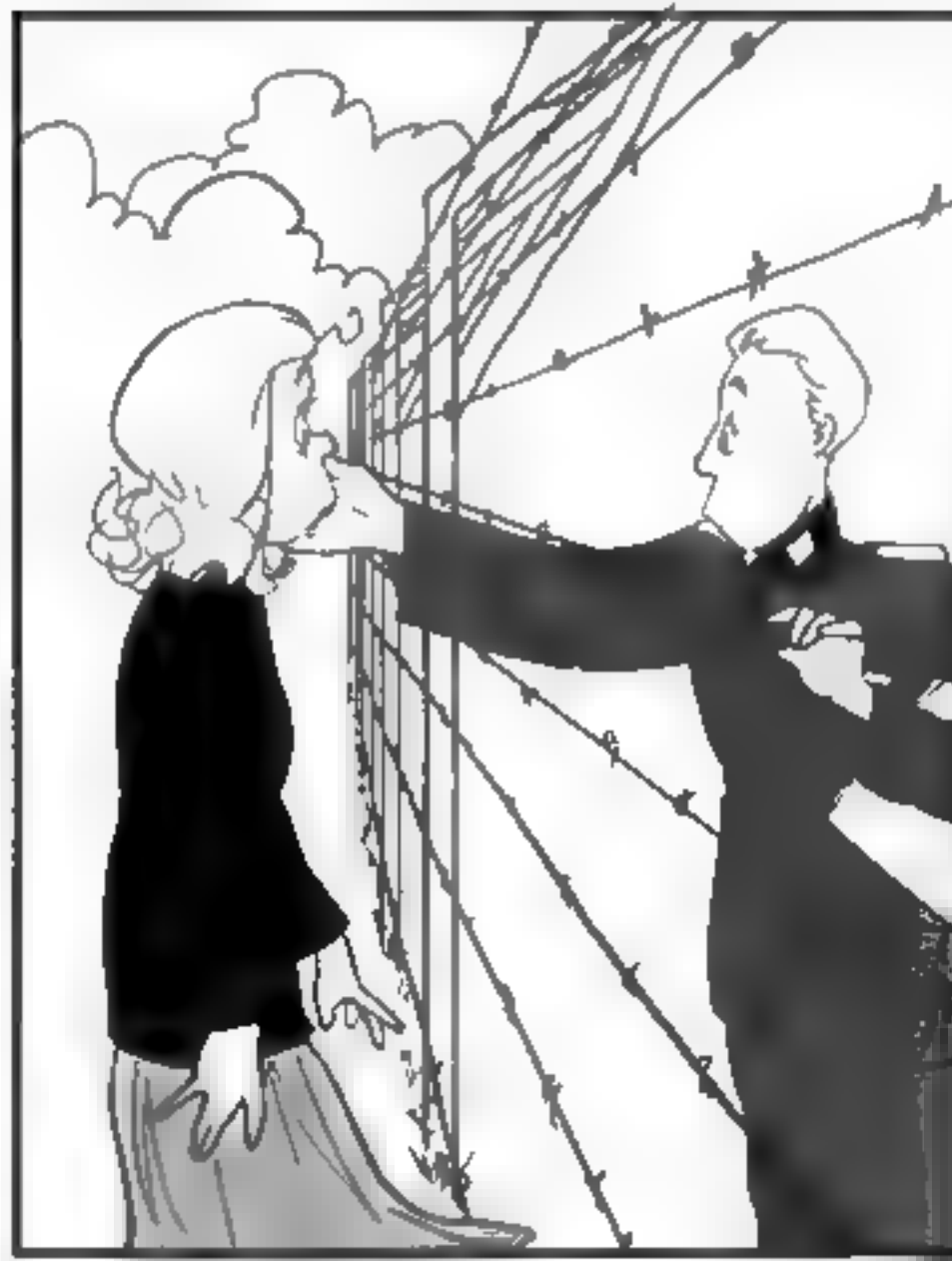


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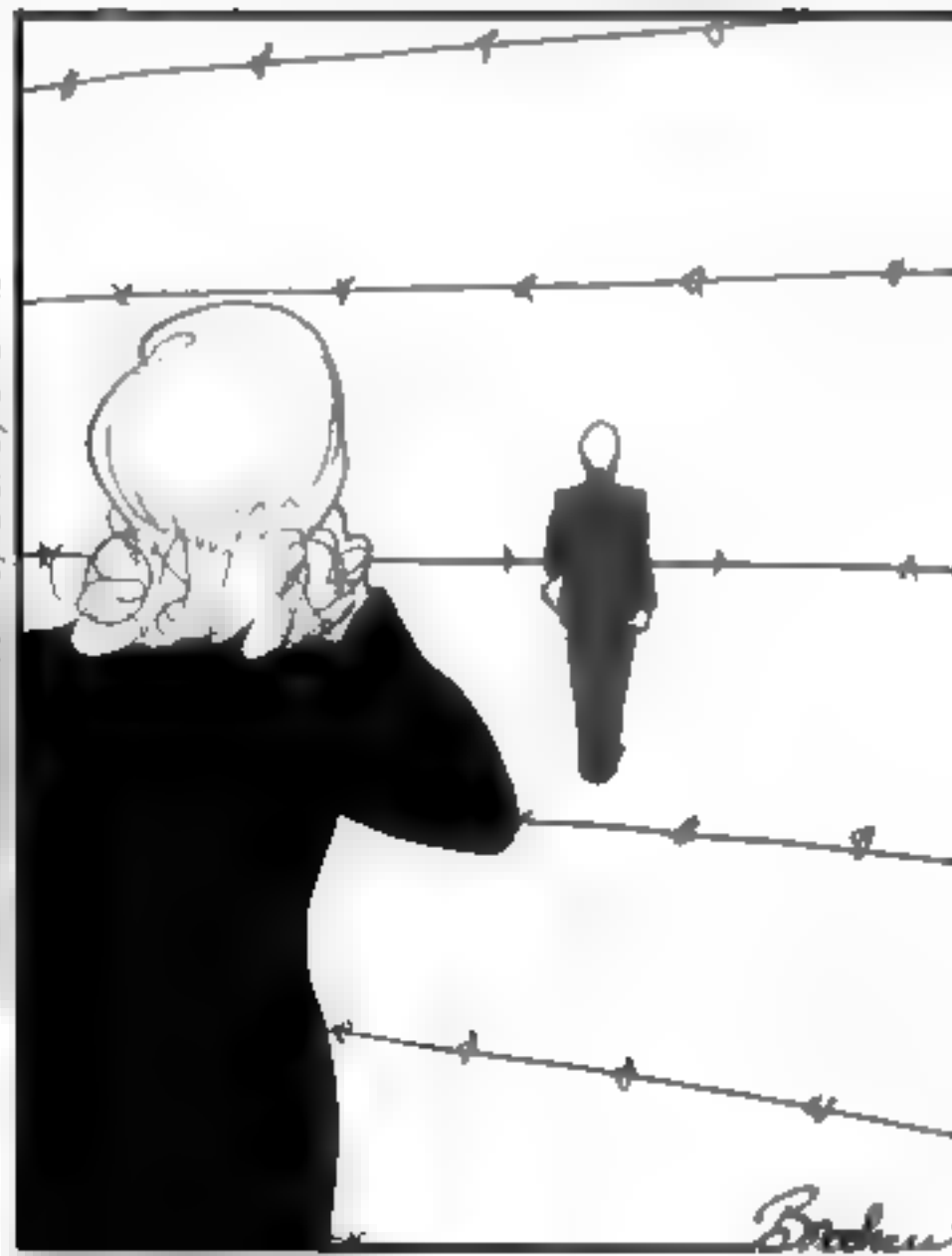
Brooke







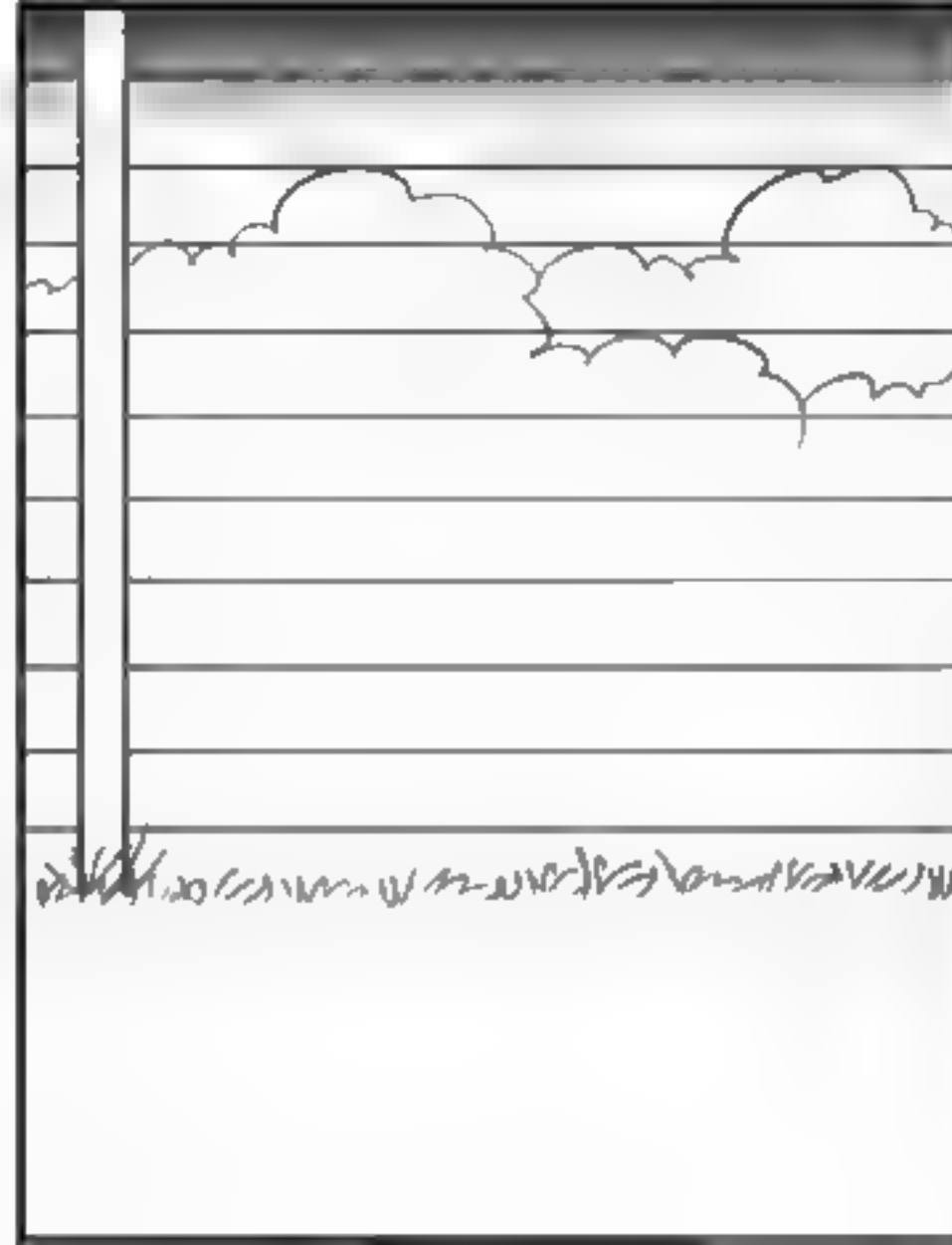
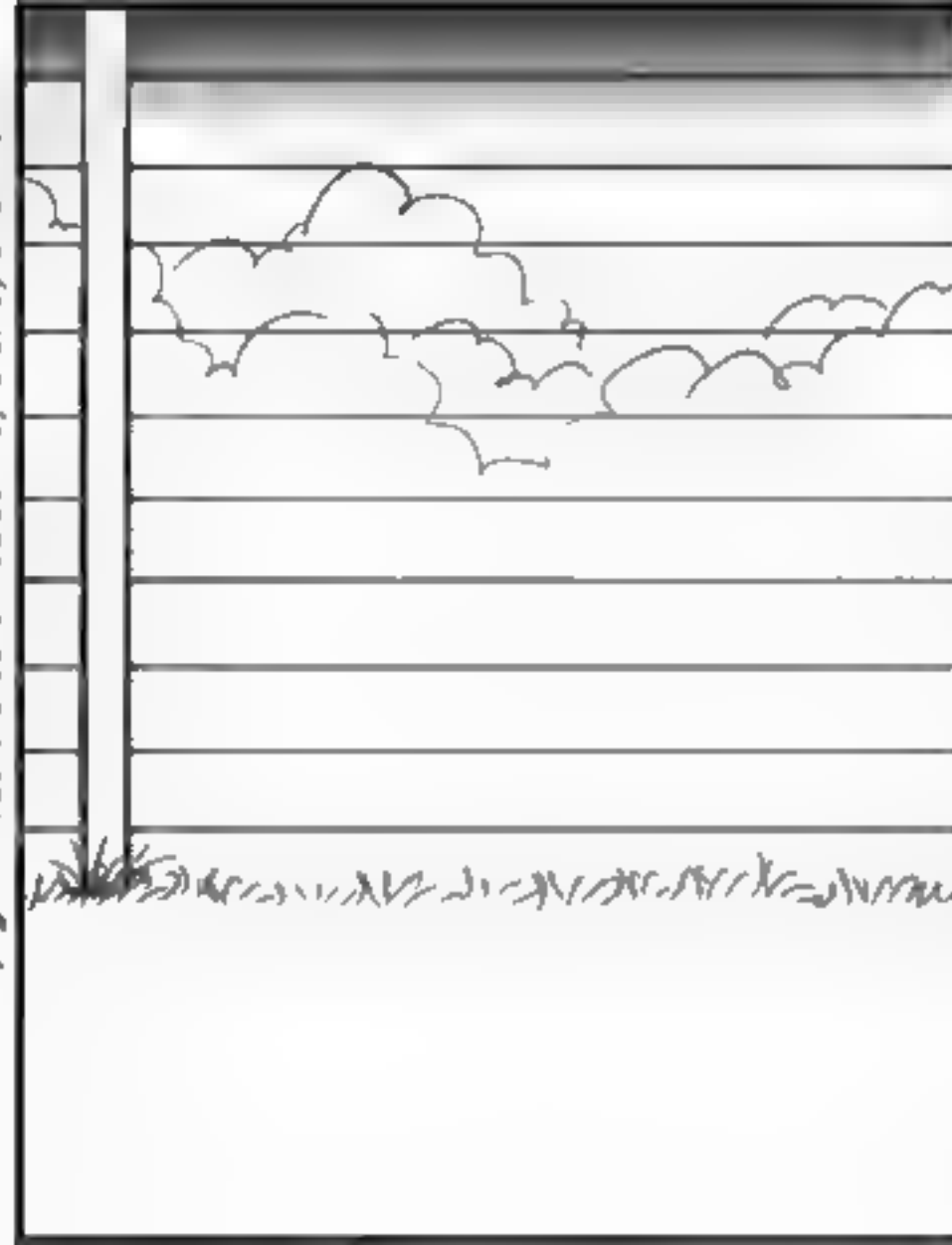
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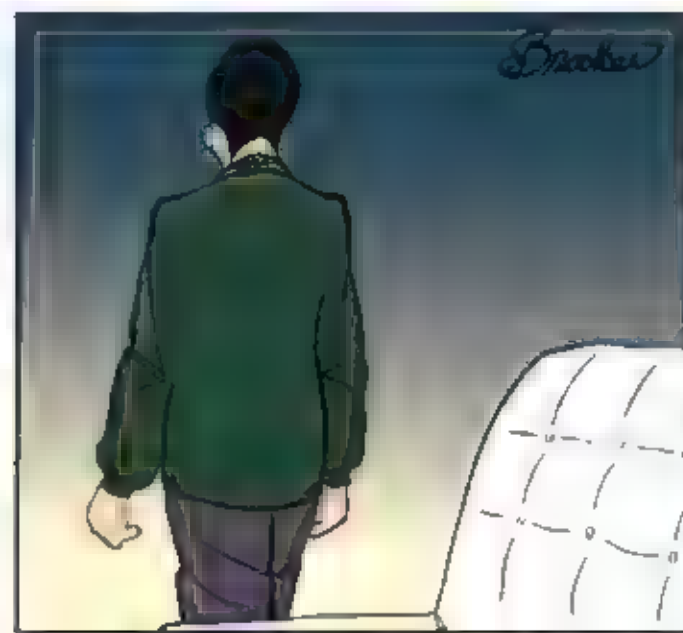
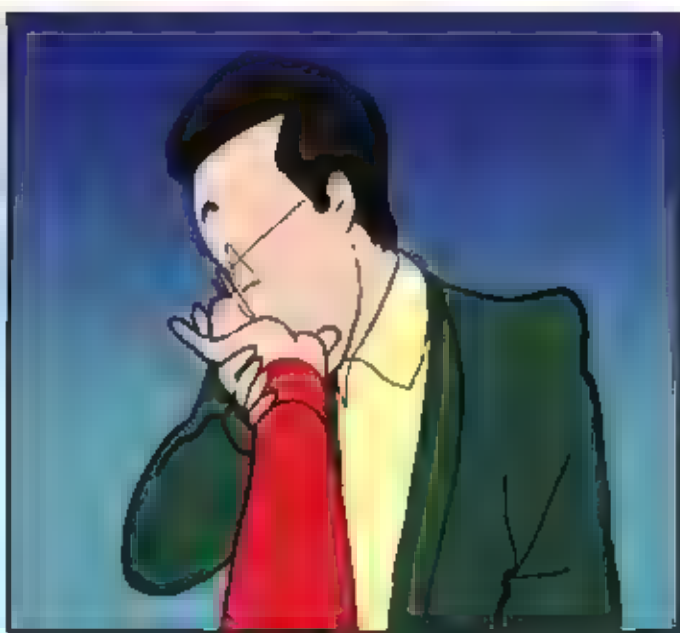
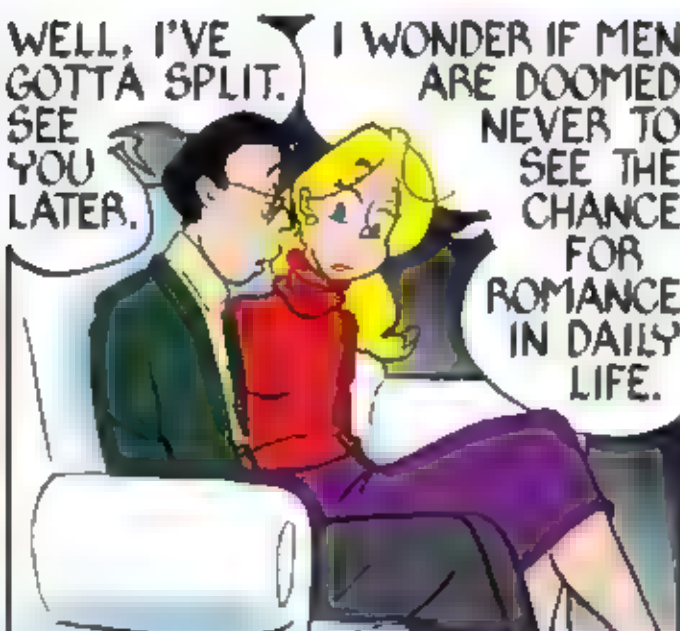
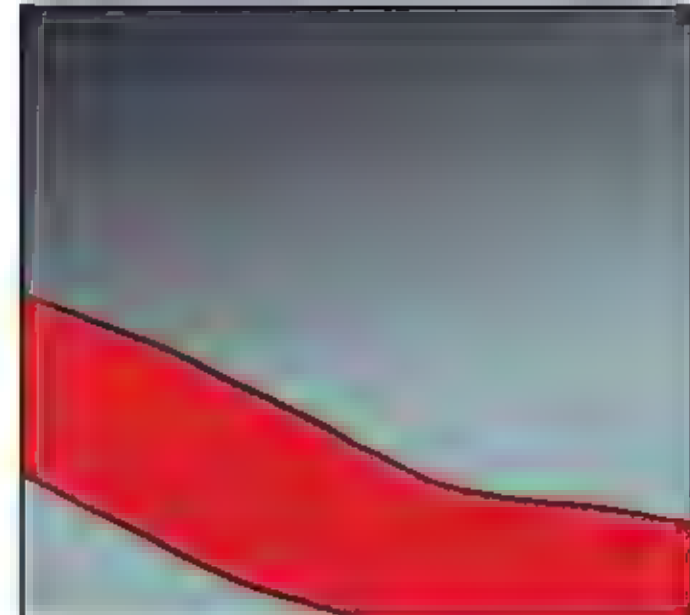


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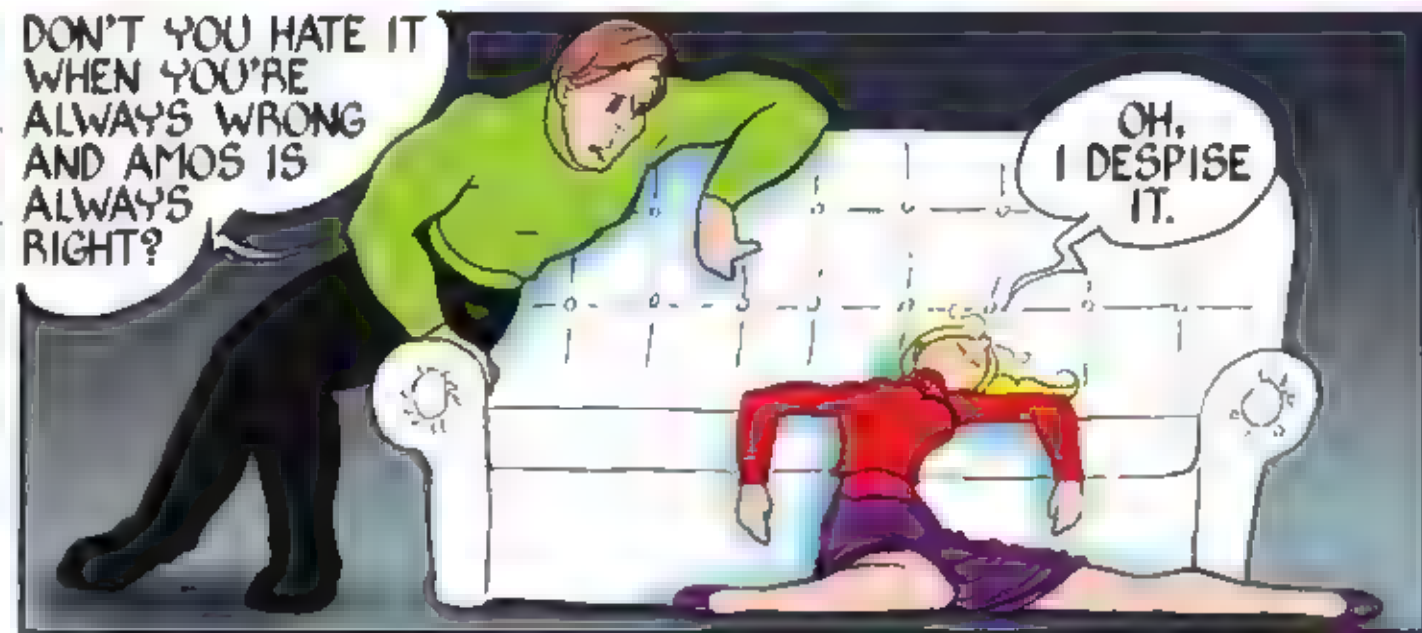




# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



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BUT WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO DAD?

I NEVER  
REALLY  
KNEW.

IT WAS  
REPORTED  
THAT HE  
SHOWED  
CONSPICUOUS  
BRAVERY IN  
BATTLE. THEN HE  
JUST VANISHED.

ONLY HIS DOG TAGS  
WERE FOUND...AND LIKE SO  
MANY PEOPLE AT THE CLOSE  
OF THE WAR, I COMMENCED  
THE BUSINESS OF WAITING FOR  
SOMEONE TO COME WALKING BACK.

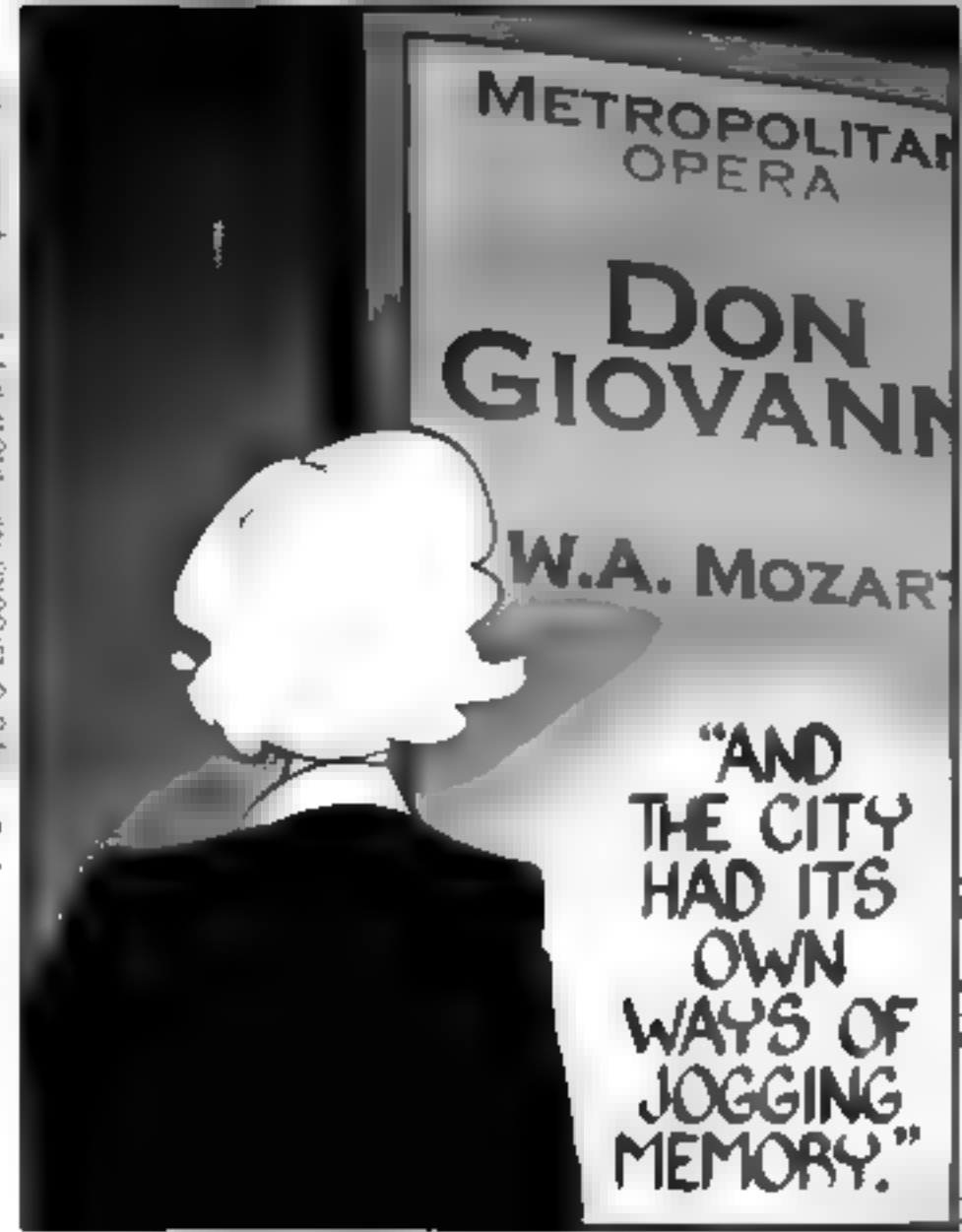
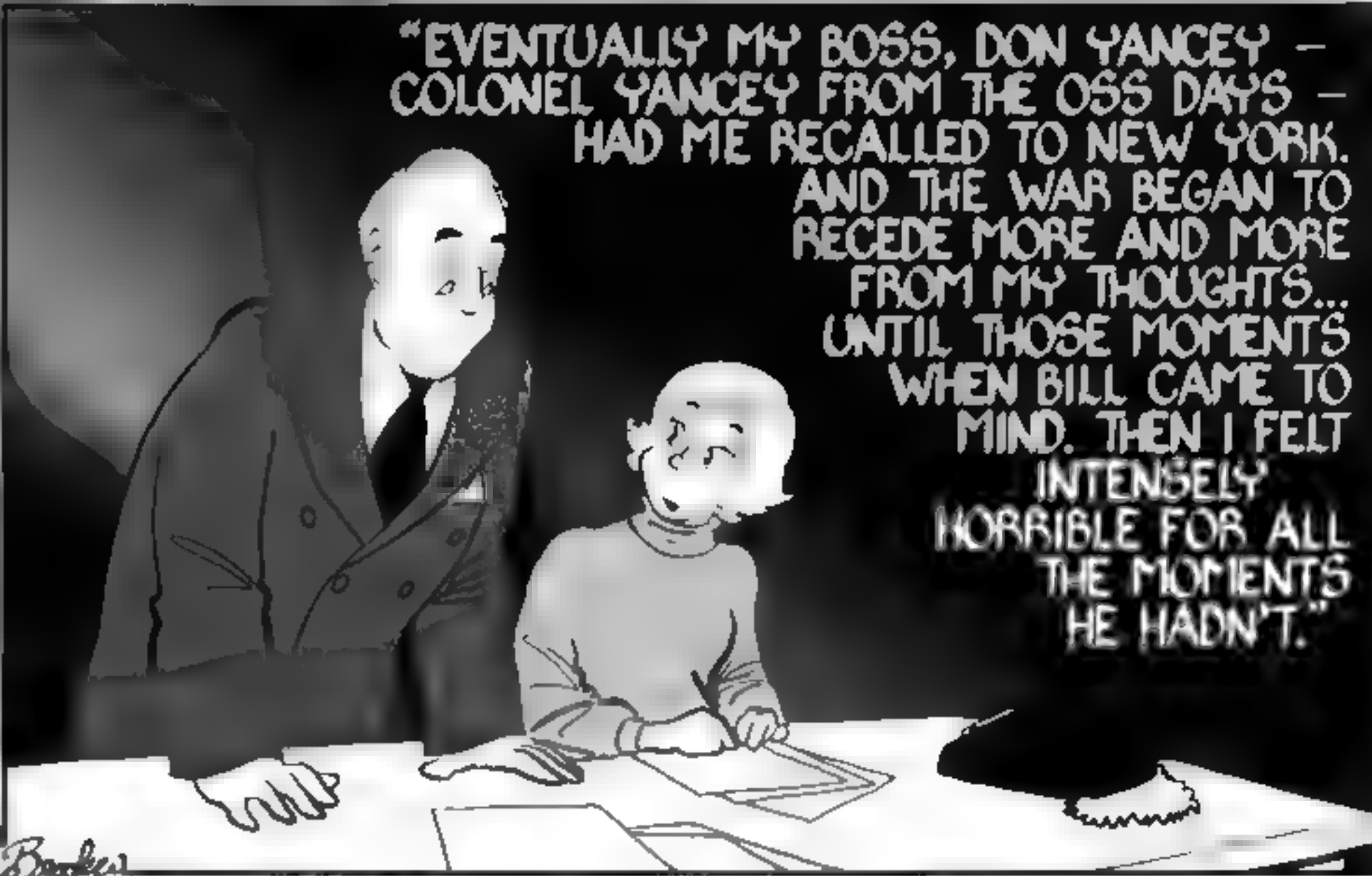
"IN THE MEANTIME, I WAS  
PUT TO WORK BROAD-  
CASTING FOR THE  
AMERICAN SECTOR IN  
BERLIN, AND LATER FOR  
RADIO  
FREE  
EUROPE  
IN  
MUNICH.

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4-5

"AS TIME MOVED ON,  
HOWEVER,  
IT BECAME  
HARDER AND  
HARDER  
NOT TO  
PLACE  
BILL IN  
SOME  
CORNER  
OF A  
FOREIGN  
FIELD THAT  
WOULD BE  
FOREVER  
NEBRASKA."





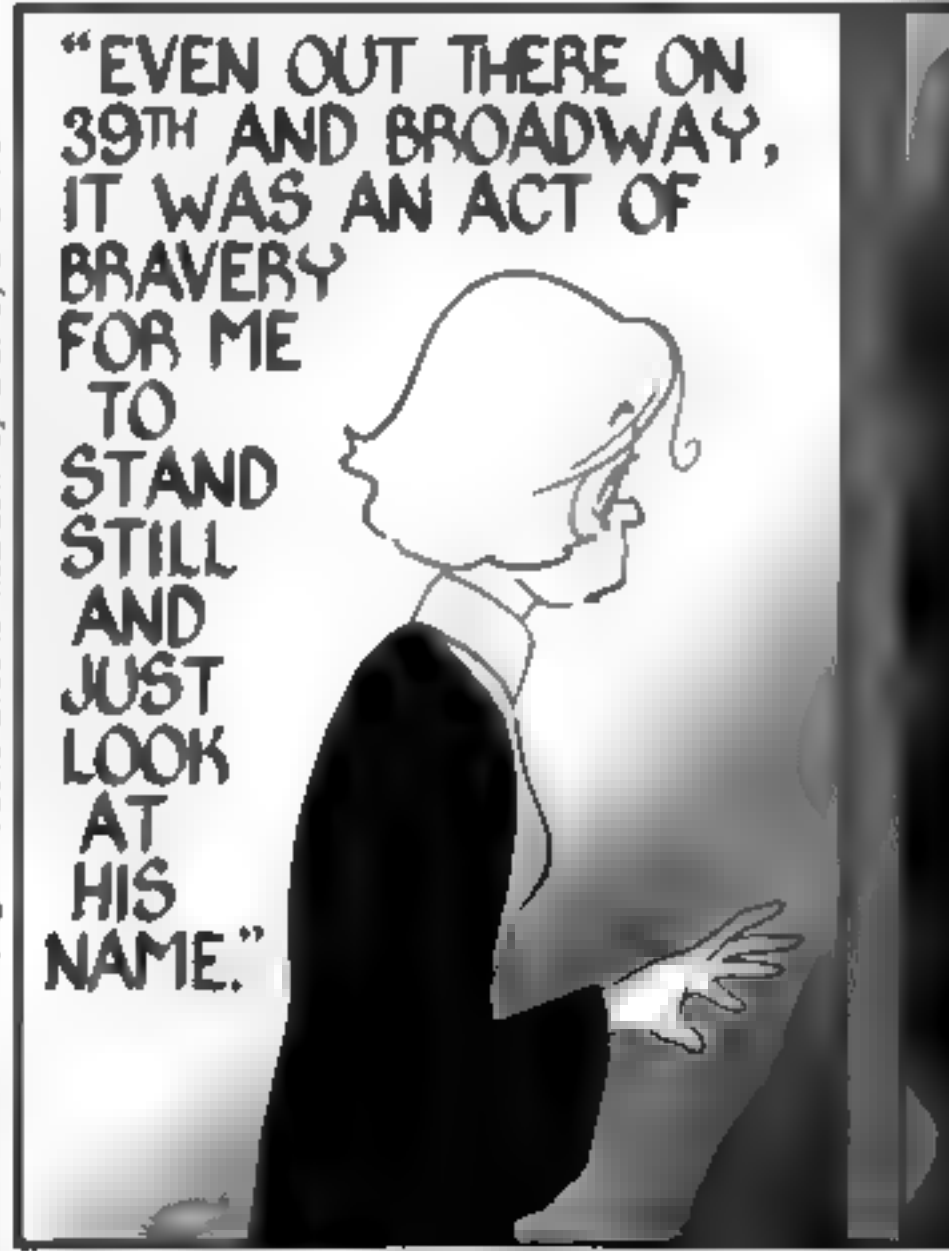








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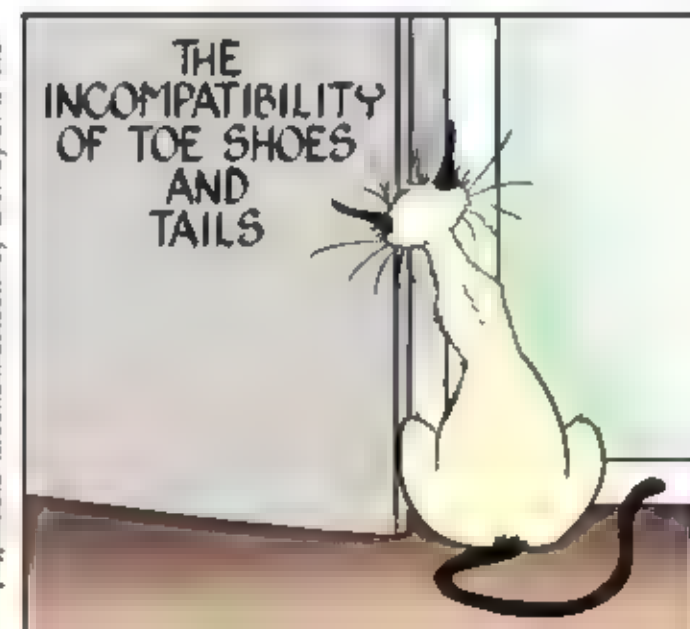
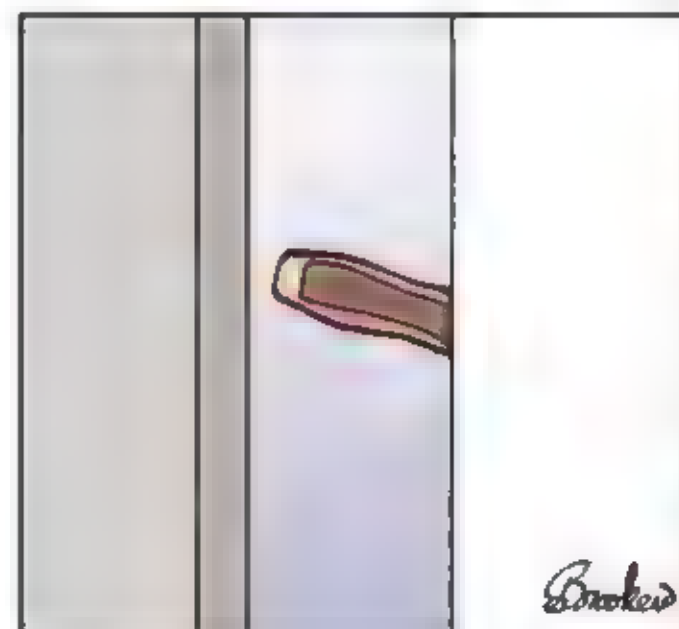
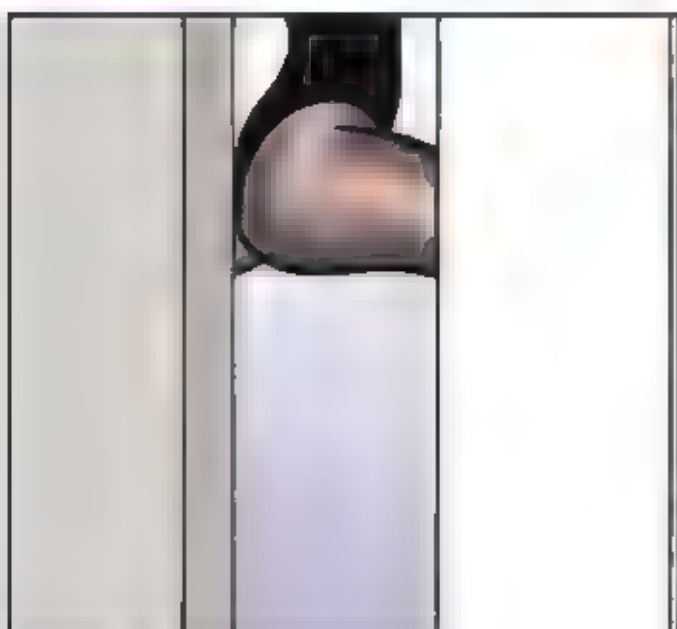
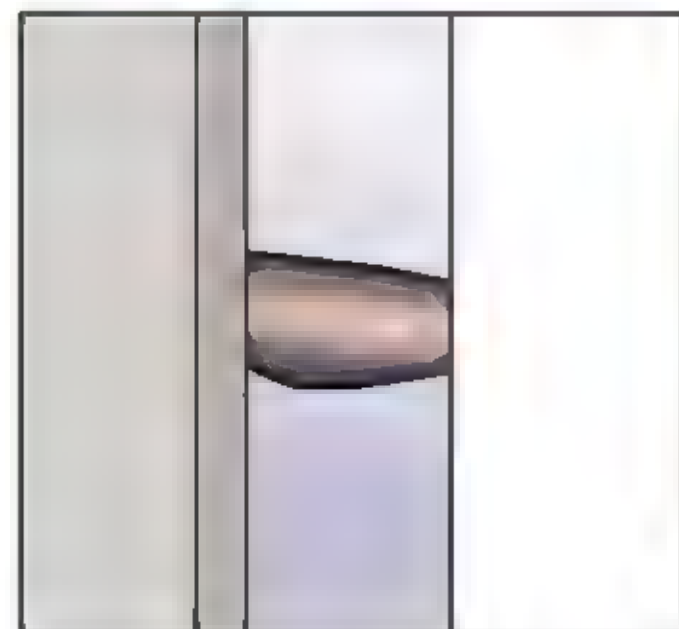
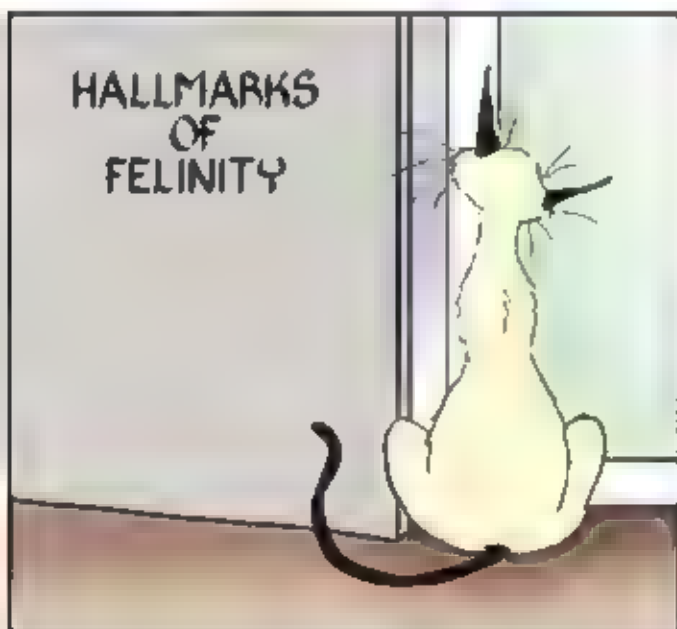






Brooke











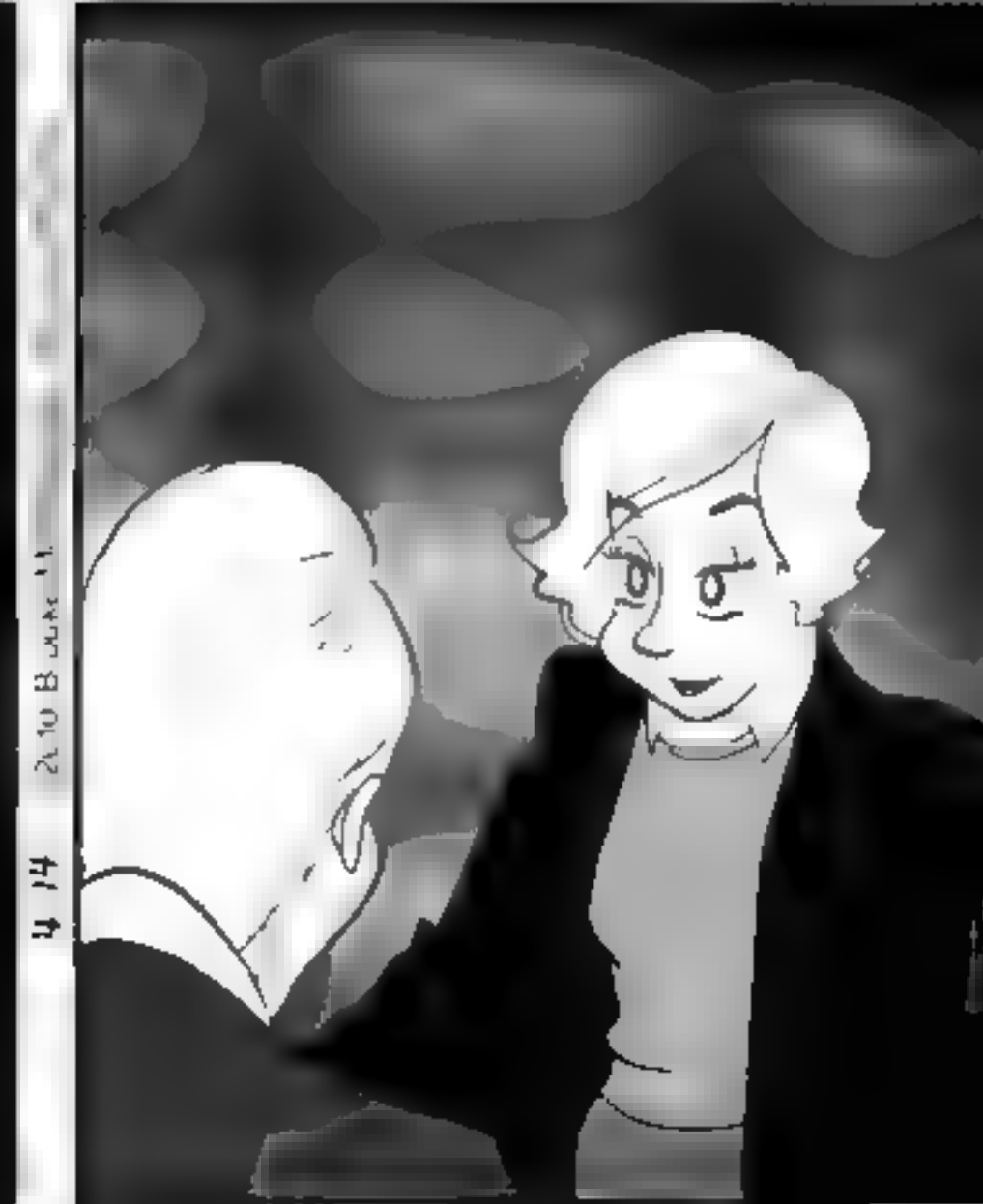
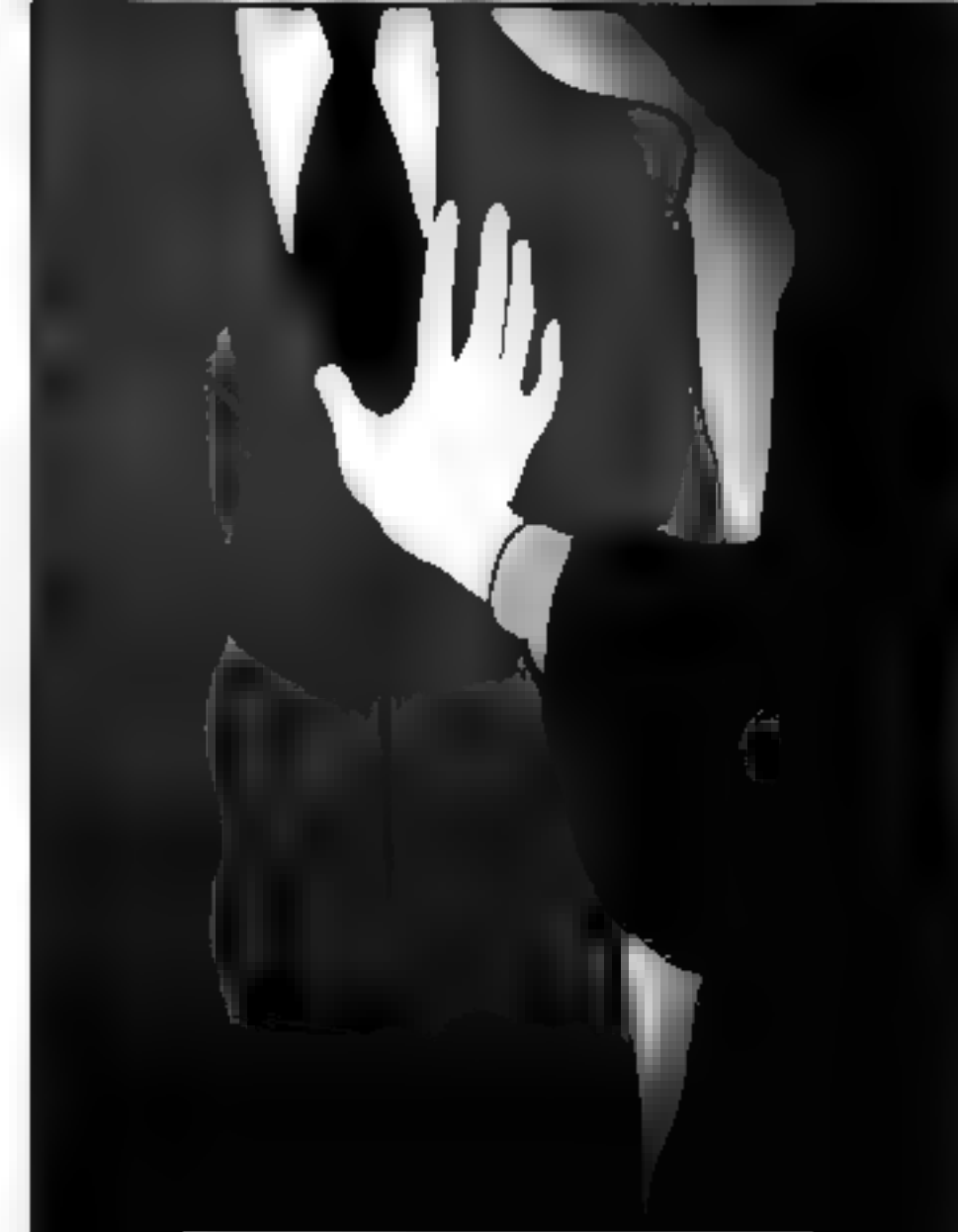




I ONCE KNEW A YOUNG  
WOMAN WHO RESEMBLED  
YOU IN NEARLY EVERY  
ASPECT...AND JUST FOR AN  
INSTANT, I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE SHE. BUT TIME HAS  
PASSED, AND SHE COULD  
NOT STILL LOOK  
AS YOUNG  
AS YOU...



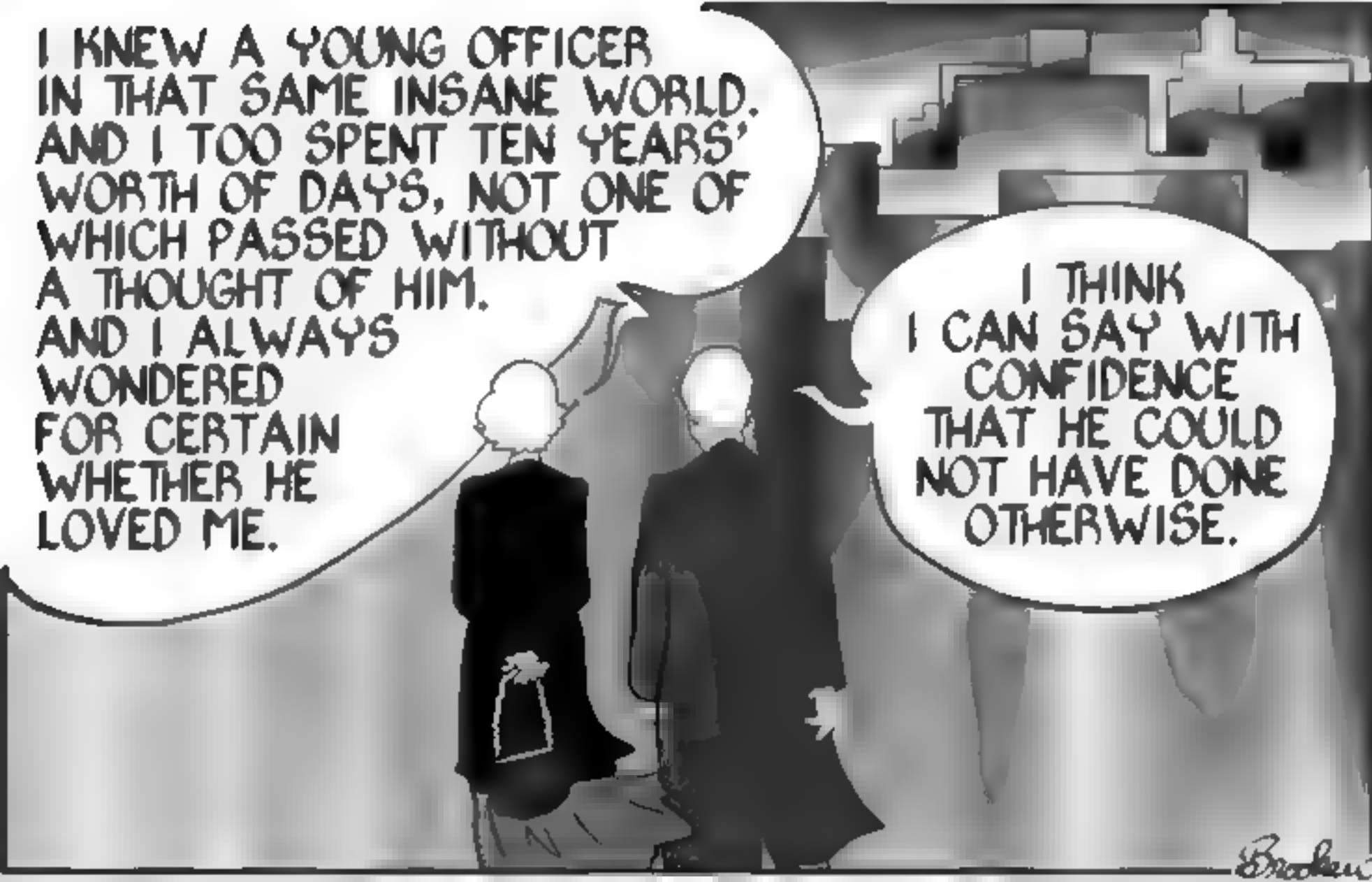
...AS SWEET AND  
UNCHANGED FROM WHEN  
SHE WAS A GIRL...  
AND I WAS A YOUNG MAN...  
AND THE WORLD AROUND  
US WAS  
MORE THAN  
USUALLY  
INSANE.













THERE IS A DINER NEAR  
HERE...WOULD YOU LIKE  
TO HAVE LUNCH WITH  
ME SO WE CAN  
TALK ABOUT  
OUR LOST  
LOVES?

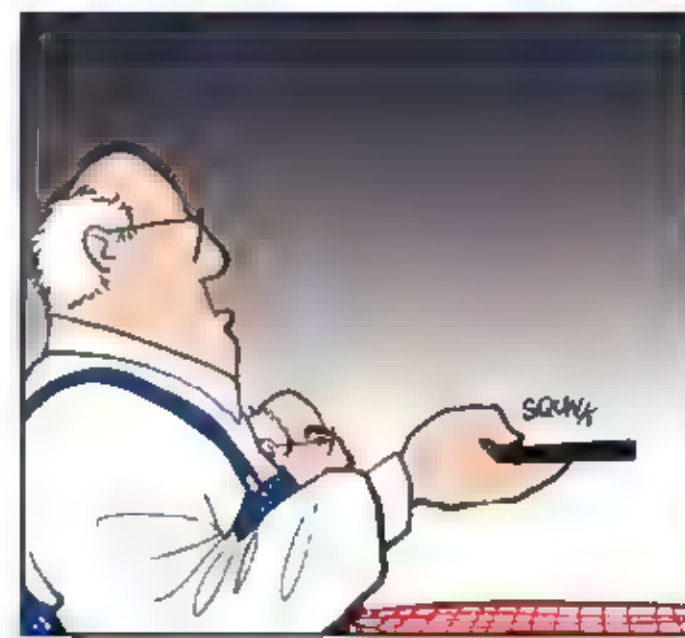
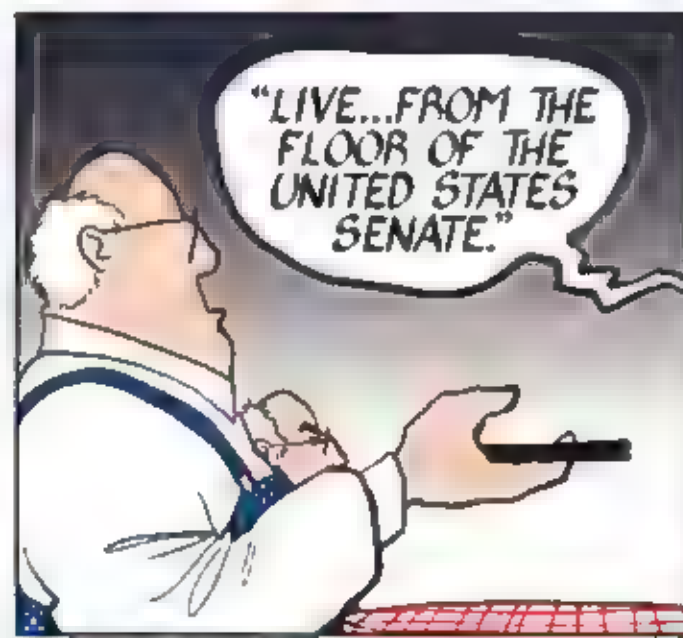
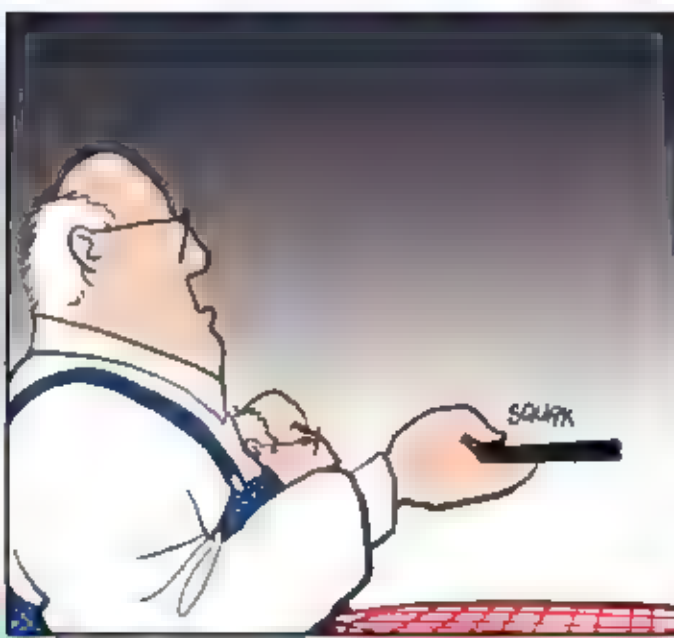
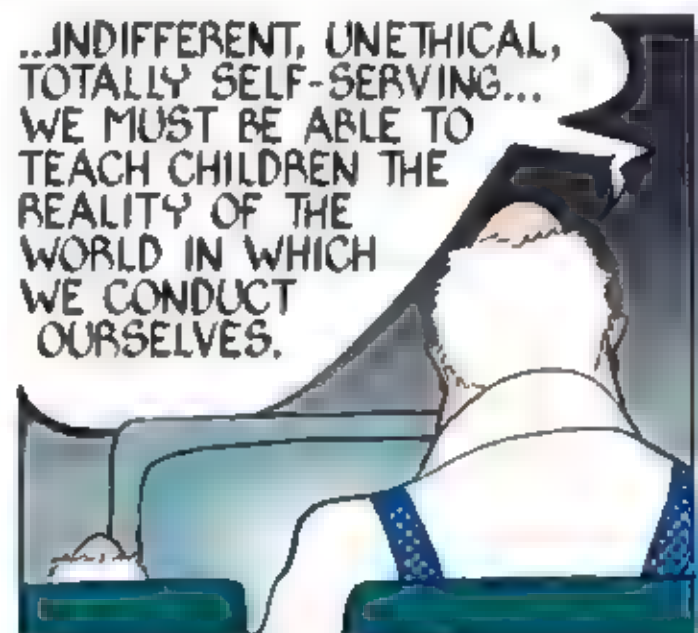
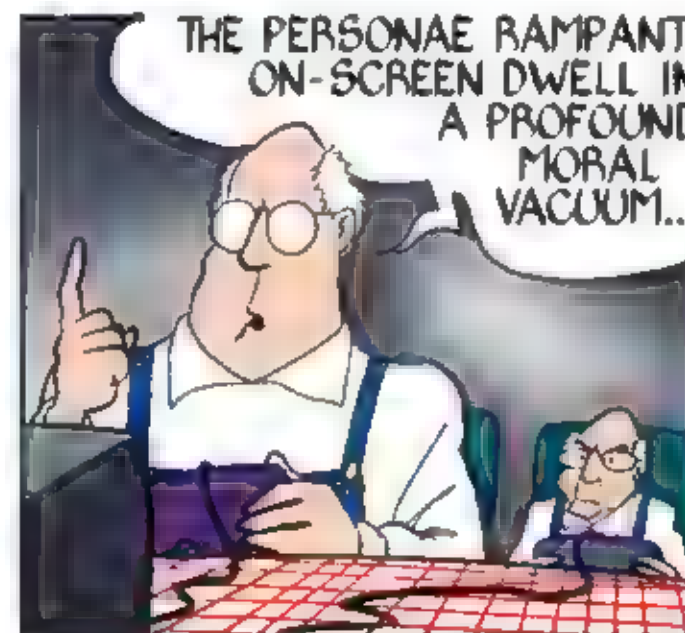
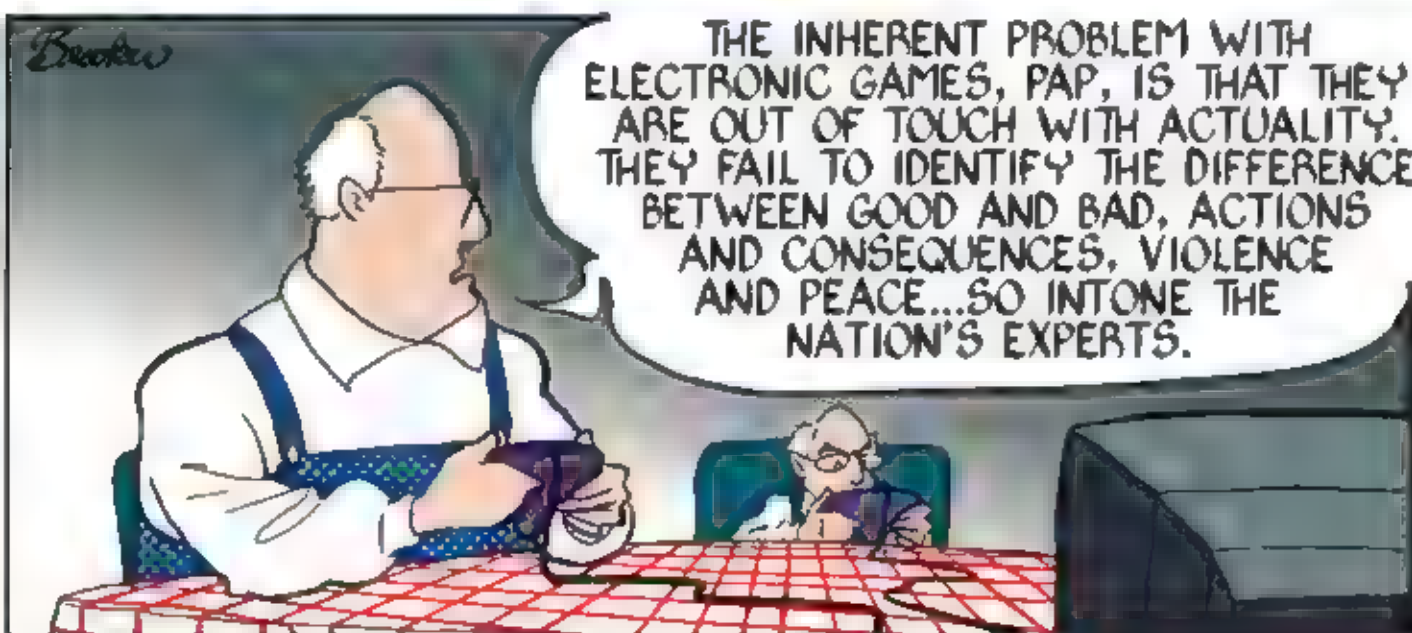
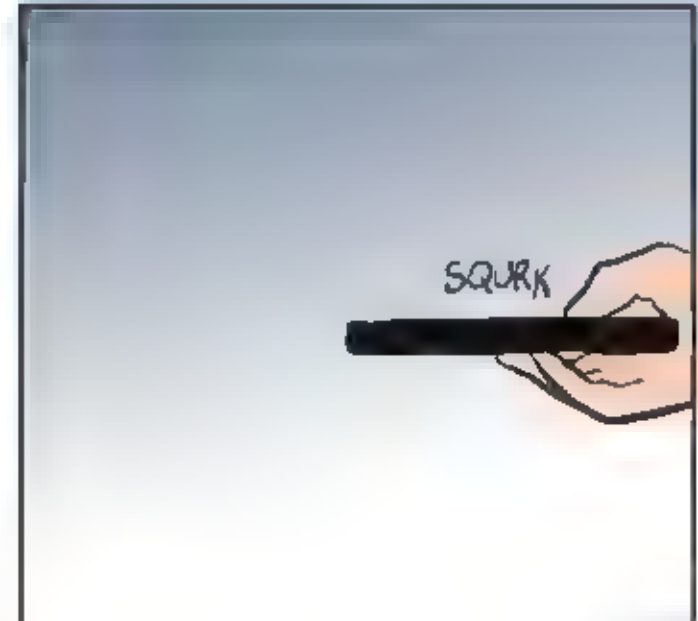
I WOULD  
INDEED.

AND THEN YOU CAN TELL  
ME IF THERE IS ANYTHING  
YOU HAVE WANTED TO  
UTTER TO THIS GIRL  
OVER ALL  
THESE YEARS.  
...SOMETHING  
YOU'VE  
ACHED  
TO SAY  
TO HER  
ABOVE  
ALL  
THINGS.

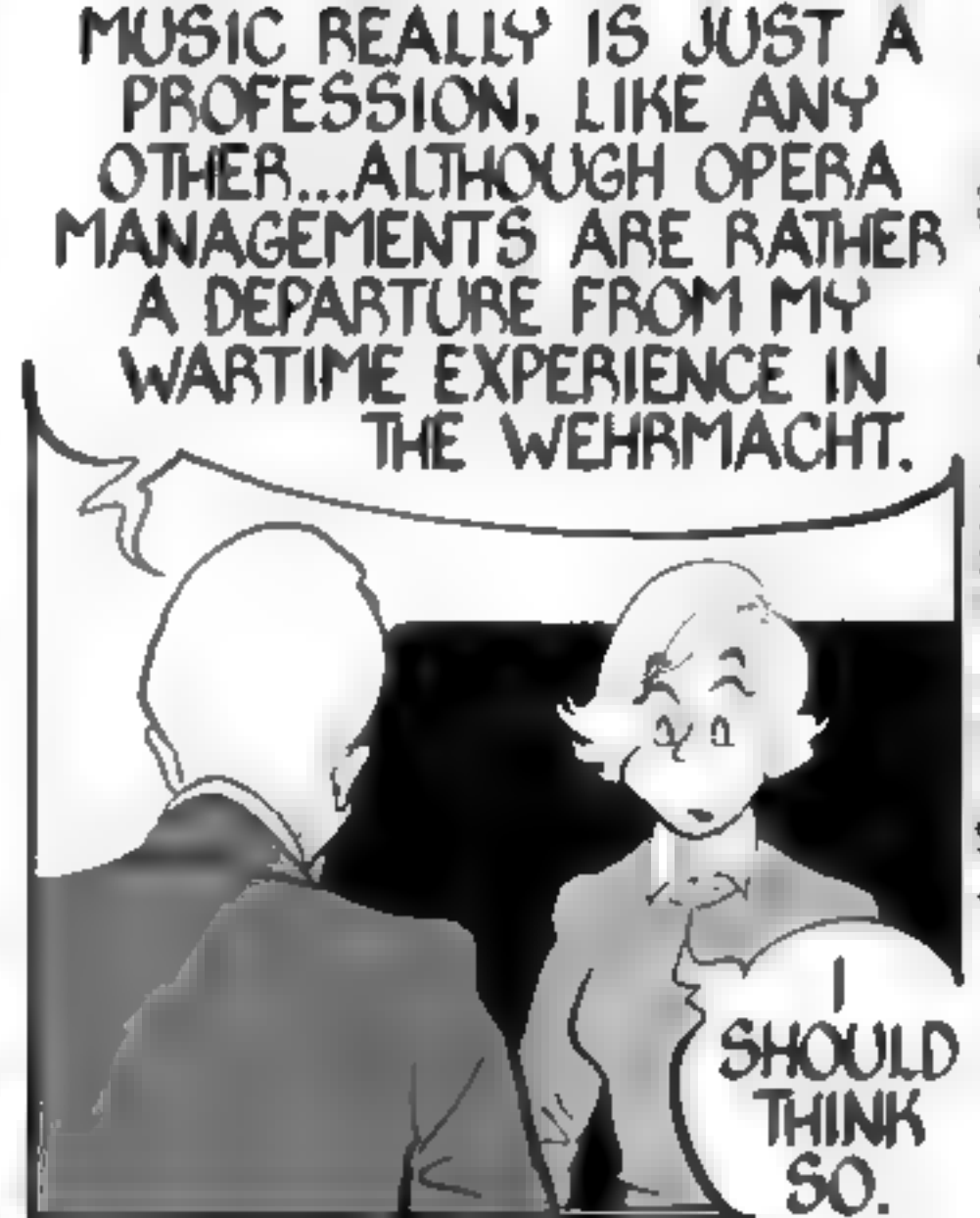
YES,  
THERE HAS  
BEEN.

AND  
WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?

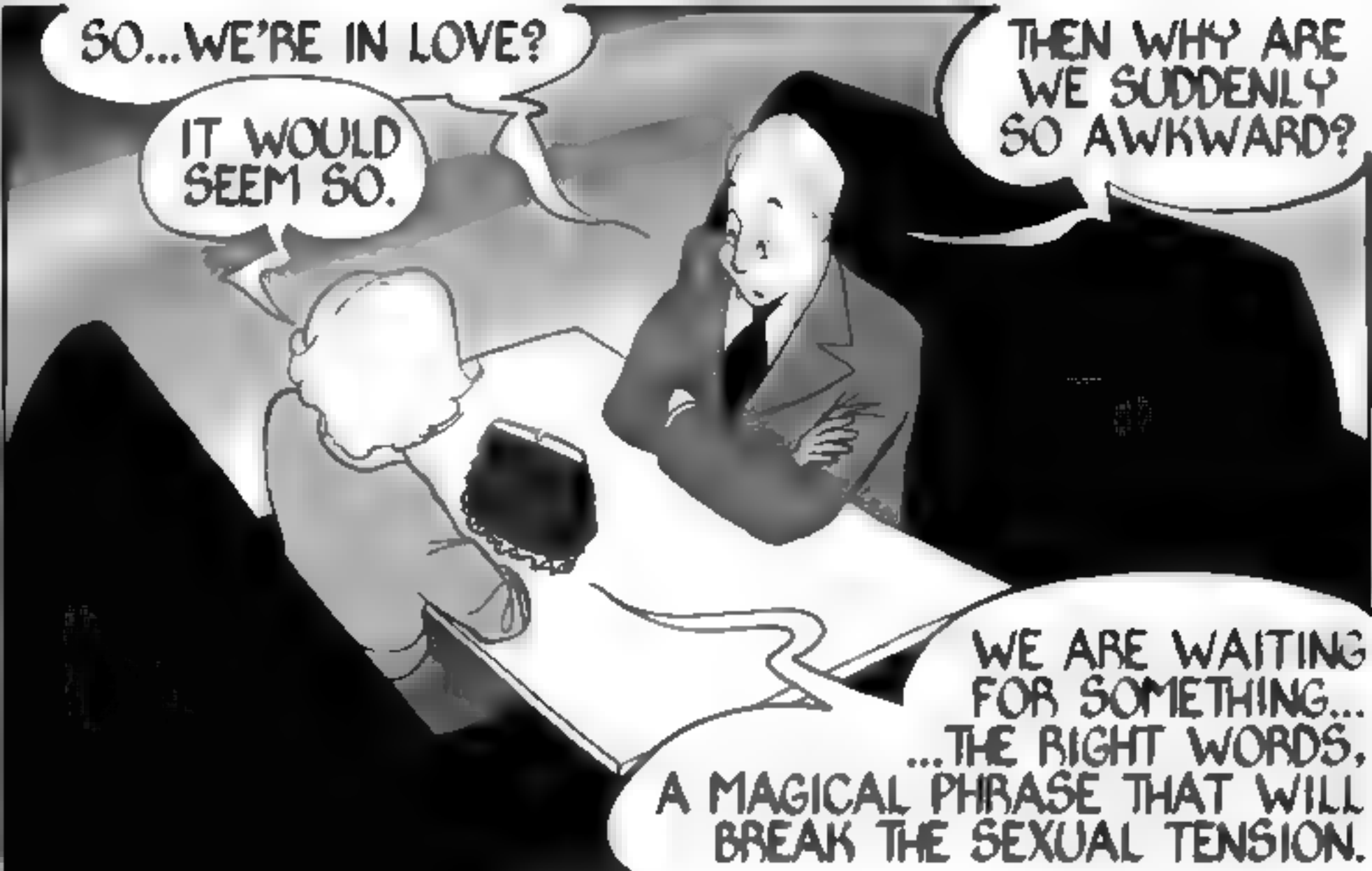
"HELLO."







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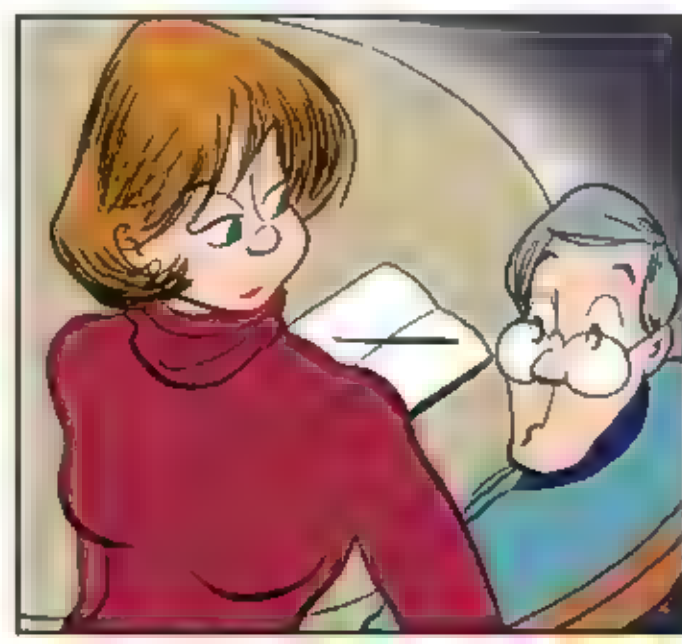
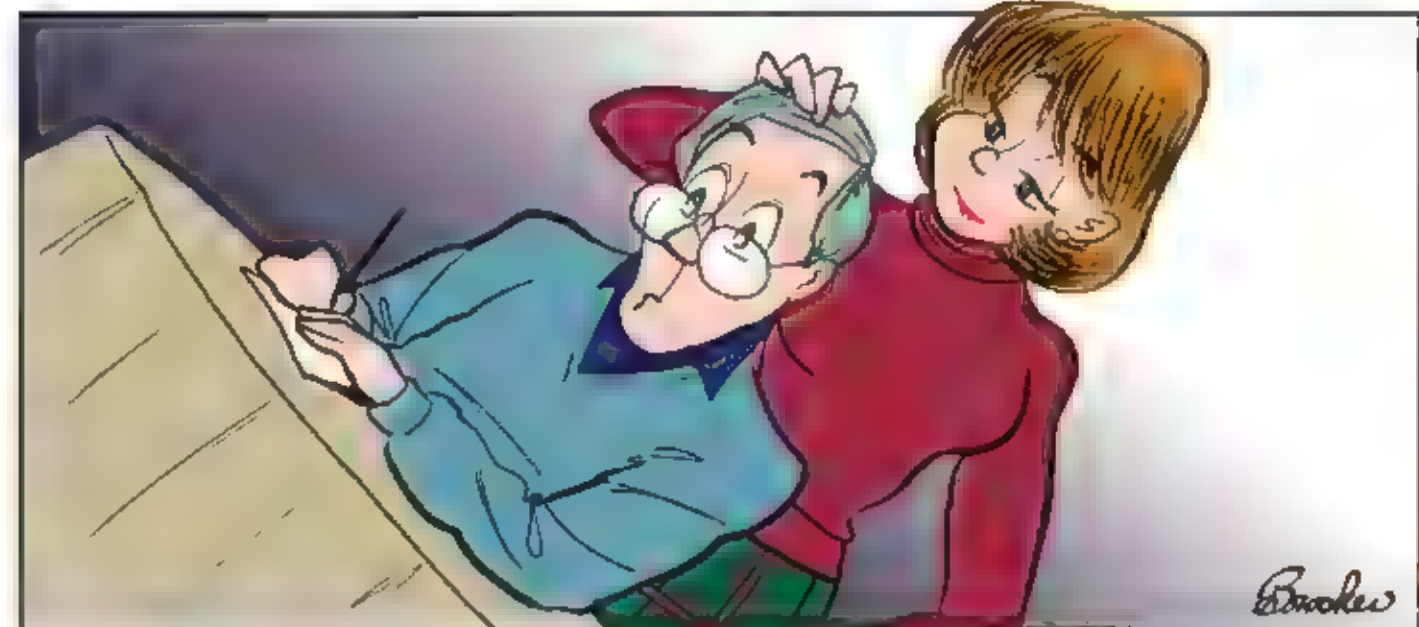
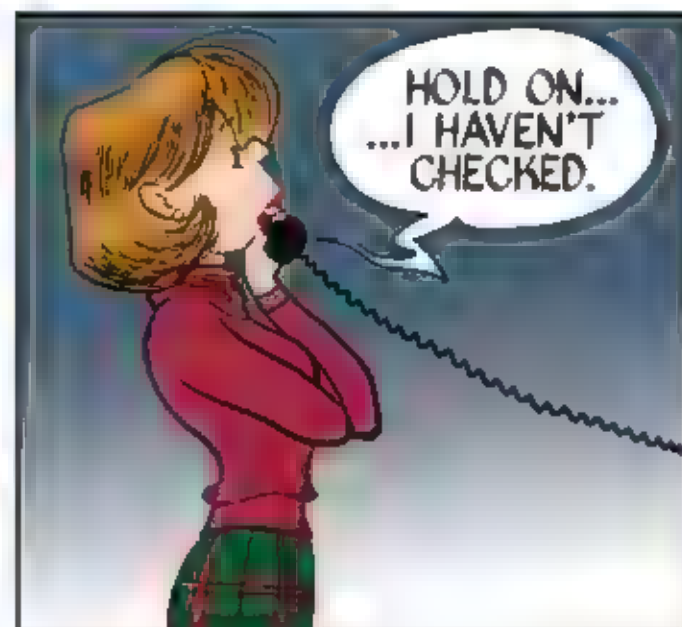
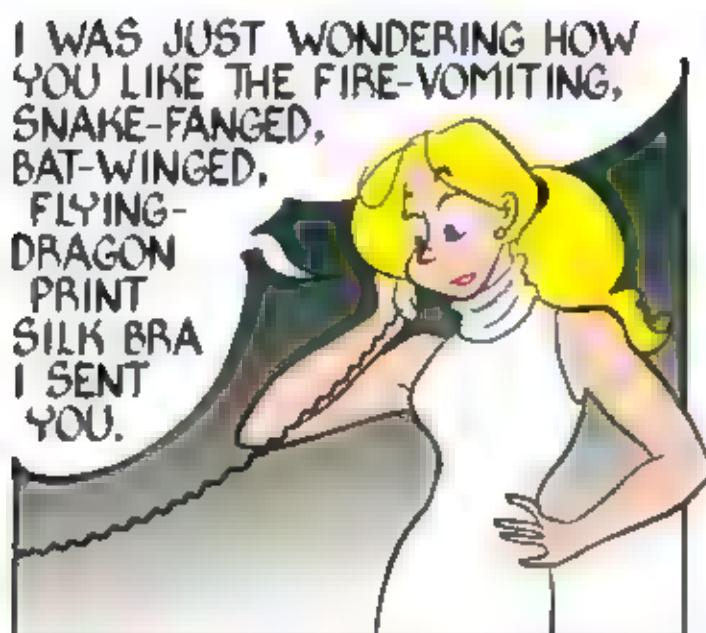


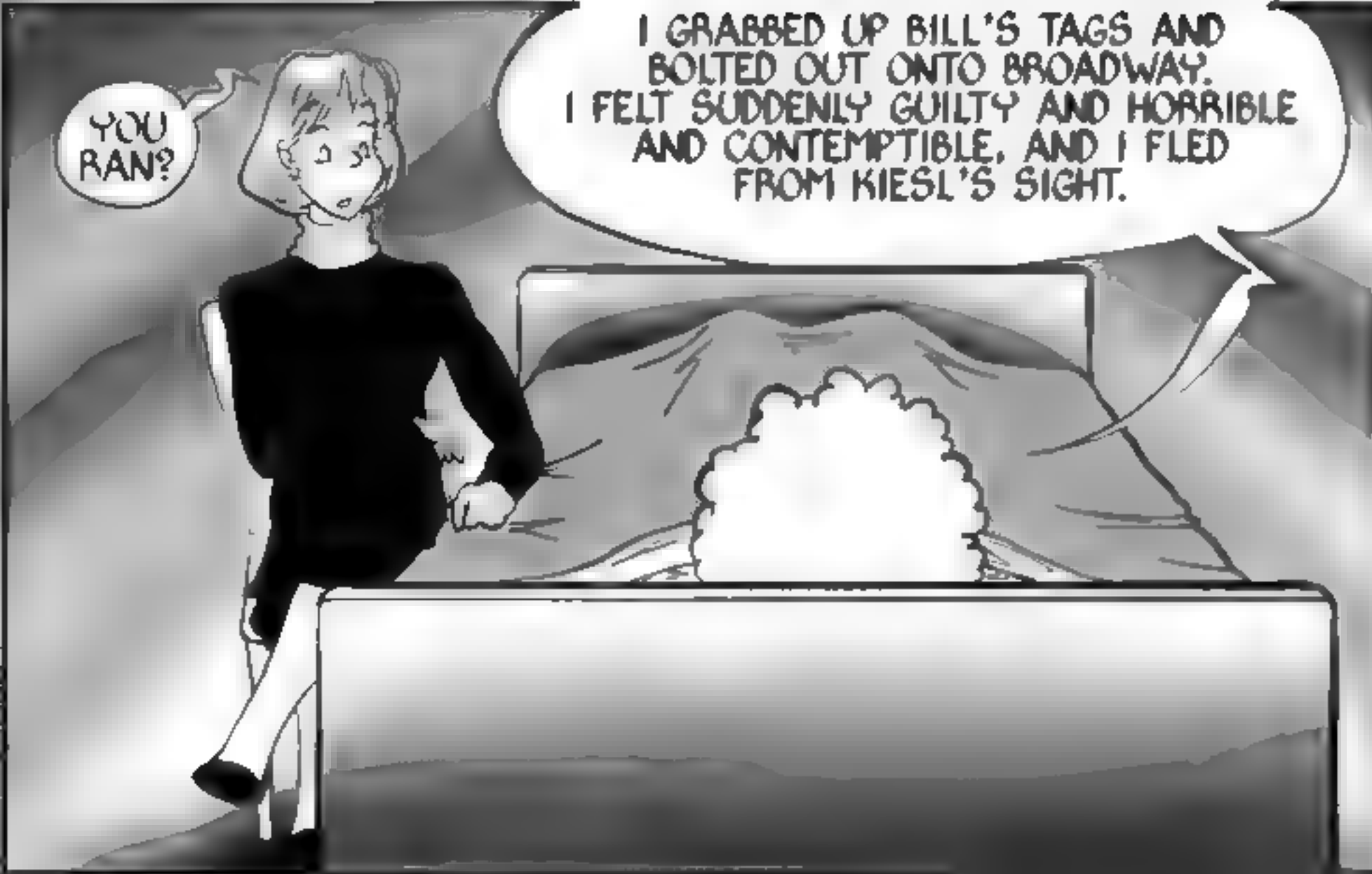










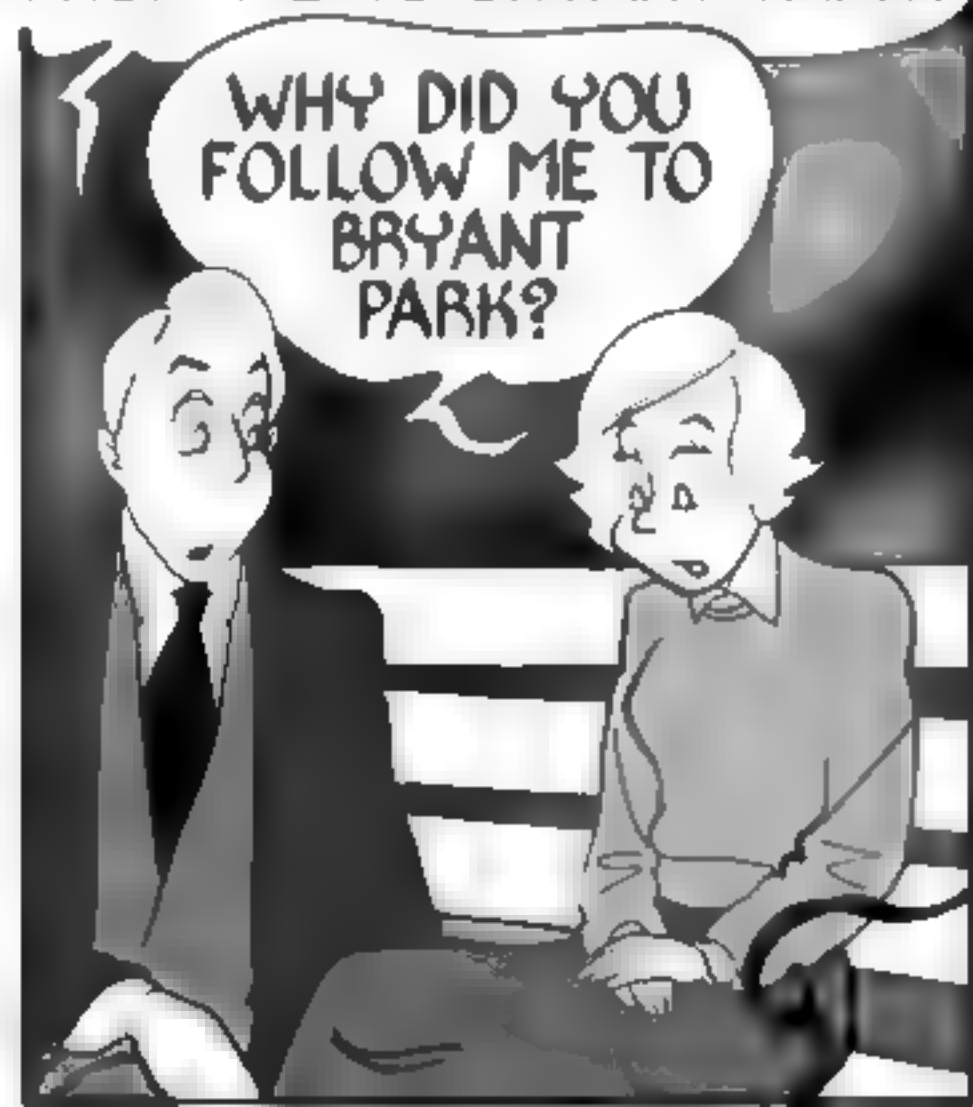




I GAVE THE WAITRESS AN  
EXCEEDINGLY LARGE TIP  
TO PROPITIATE FOR YOUR  
DASHING FROM THE DINER.  
WHEN I CAUGHT SIGHT OF  
YOU, YOU WERE SPRINTING  
UP BROADWAY  
LIKE A  
GAZELLE.



WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY  
FROM ME TO BRYANT PARK?



WHY DID YOU  
FOLLOW ME TO  
BRYANT  
PARK?



I THINK I LIKE  
YOUR ANSWER  
BETTER THAN  
MY ANSWER.



OKAY, NOW I WANT YOUR  
ANSWER...WHY DID YOU  
RUN AWAY FROM ME?



THIS IS BLATANT EVASION.  
SHE HAS TO GIVE ME A  
STRAIGHT ANSWER.



I'VE BOUGHT SOME  
TIME. NOW THINK  
UP A COGENT  
ANSWER.

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DELAY...SHE DELAYING...  
...DISTRACTION...NOT ANSWERING  
...NOT...ME...WANT TO KNOW...  
...WANT...KNOW.....something  
...bwuh.... glahng.. flünggg..

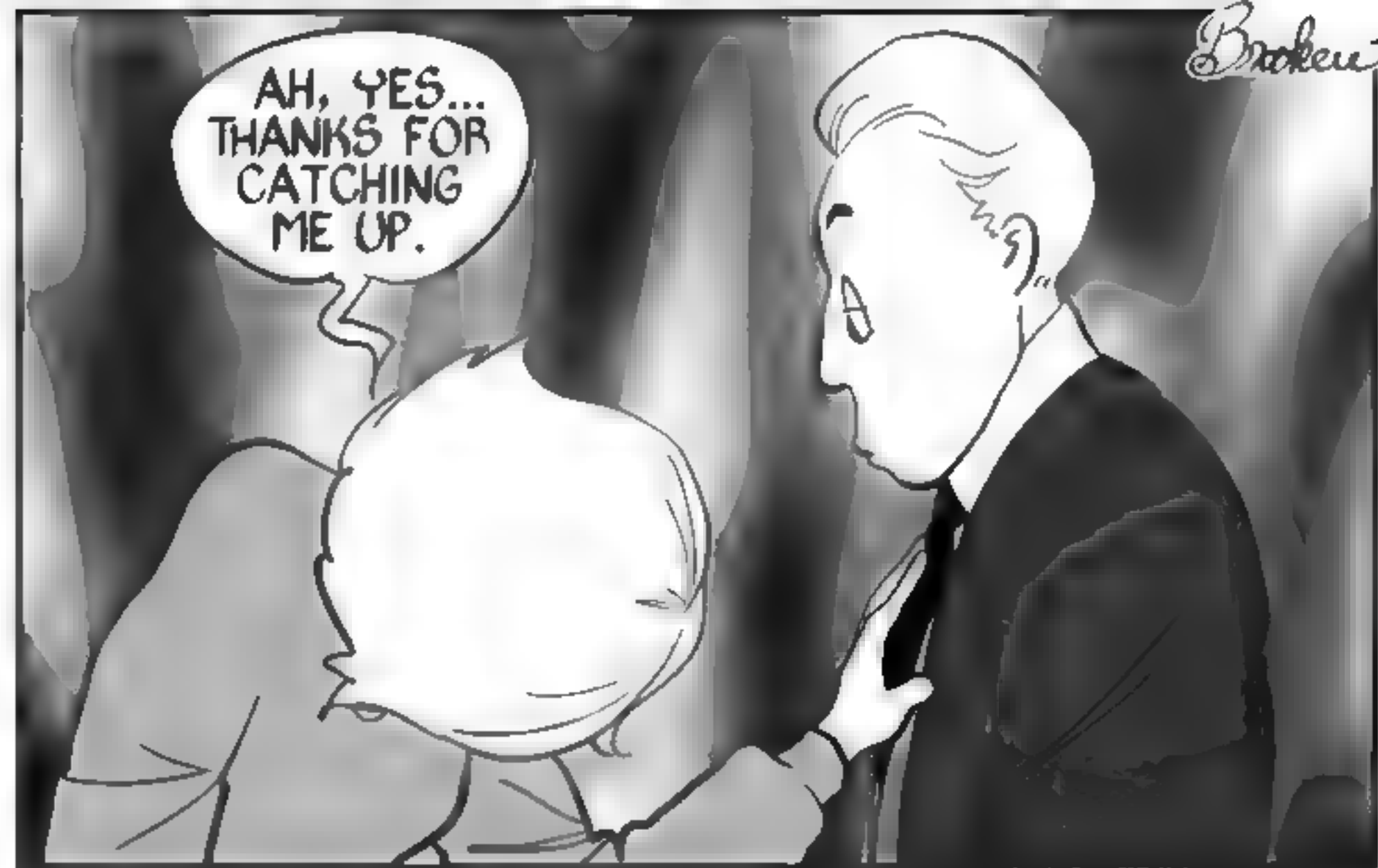


MUST COME UP WITH...  
WITH CREDIBLE...WITH...  
...HIS MOUTH FEEL SO...  
...UM...WHAT WAS I...  
...um..uhng.... bwah..



Brackee









THE TAGS ARE ALL THAT  
IS LEFT OF HIM. THEY NEVER  
FOUND ANYTHING ELSE.



WHEN YOU LOSE SOMEONE  
THIS WAY...BEYOND SOME  
THUNDERING HORIZON...YOU  
SPEND YEARS WONDERING  
WHEN HE'LL COME  
WALKING BACK.  
EVERYTHING IS  
SUSPENDED.  
YOU DON'T WANT  
A MEMORIAL,  
YOU DON'T WANT  
A MARKER.  
AND YOU  
DON'T WANT  
TO MOVE ON  
WITHOUT  
HIM.

SO I BURIED BILL  
IN MY PURSE.  
AND I NEVER  
CRIED OVER HIM.



*Becker*



...UNTIL  
NOW.



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COME, EVA, I WILL  
GET A BOX SEAT FOR  
YOU TONIGHT.

YOU CAN  
WATCH ME SING  
DON GIOVANNI.

I DON'T KNOW  
IF I'M UP FOR  
OPERA RIGHT  
NOW.

I INSIST. IT TOOK ME TEN  
YEARS TO STUMBLE INTO  
YOU...I'M NOT GOING TO  
TAKE MY  
EYES OFF  
OF YOU,  
EVEN  
FROM  
THE  
STAGE.

PERHAPS  
DURING  
MY BOW  
I'LL  
BLOW  
YOU  
A KISS,  
AND  
EMBAR-  
RASS  
YOU IN  
FRONT  
OF 3,000  
PEOPLE.

*Brooke*

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HELLO,  
DR. MARQUIS.

COLONEL  
YANCEY.  
GLAD YOU'RE  
HERE. I HAVE  
SOME MEMORY  
QUESTIONS  
FOR YOU.

IS SOMETHING  
WRONG  
WITH HIS  
MEMORY?

NOT THAT I CAN TELL ANYMORE. BUT HIS  
MOOD IS SO SURLY. ...ARE YOU SURE  
THERE ARE NO ACTUAL FAMILY  
MEMBERS?...SOMEONE OTHER THAN  
THIS ONE PERSON HE WON'T  
PERMIT US TO CALL?

THAT'S ALL  
THERE'S EVER  
BEEN.

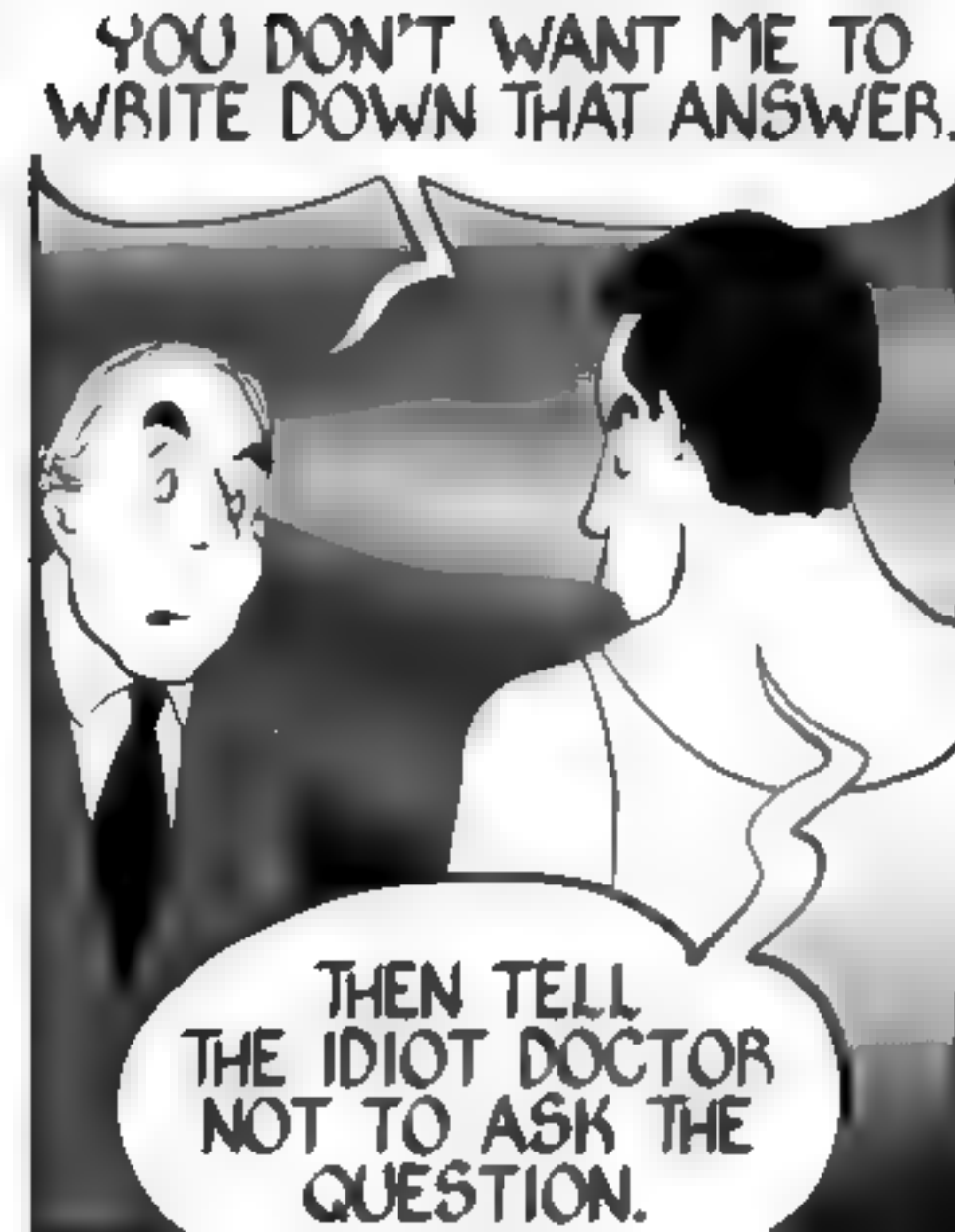
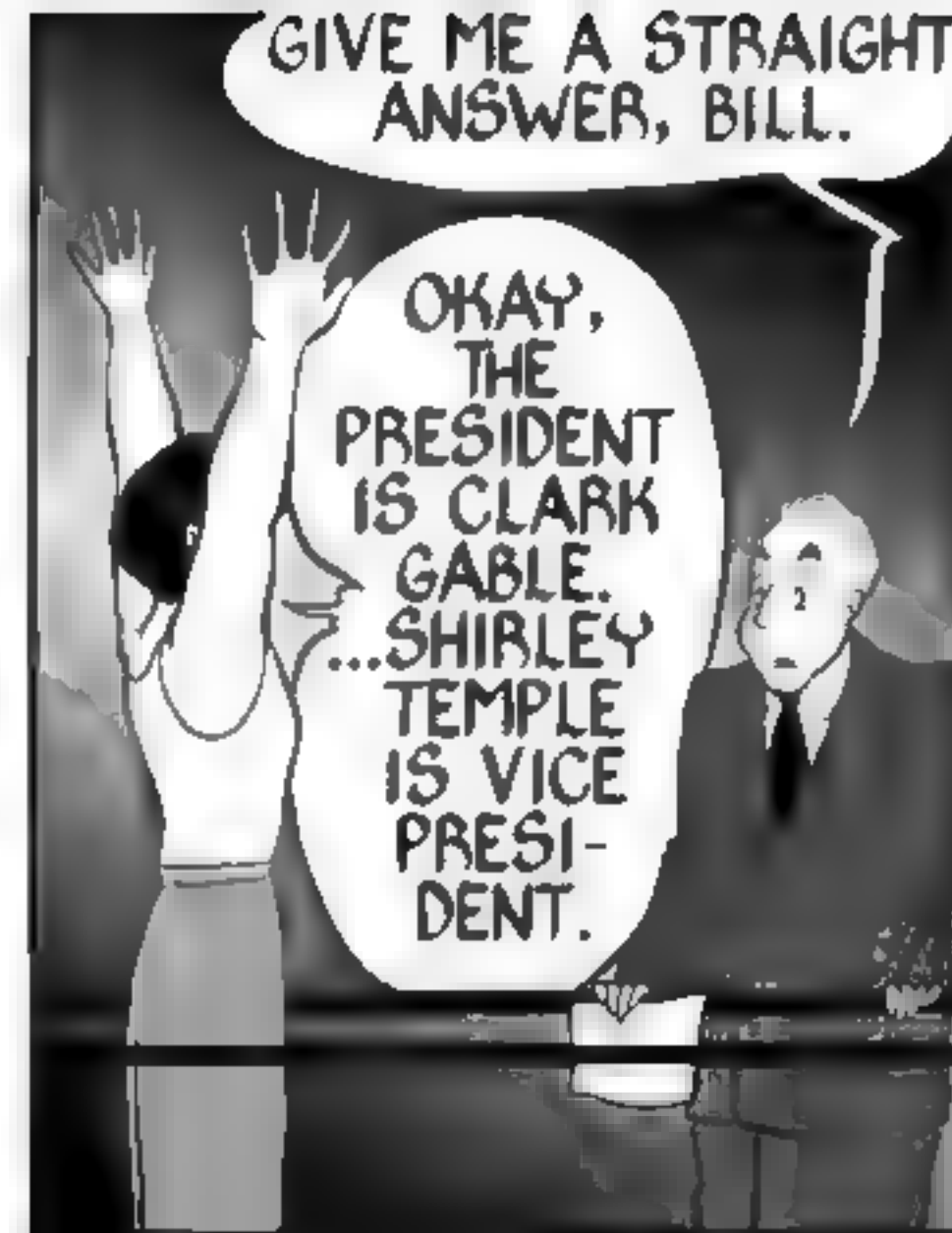
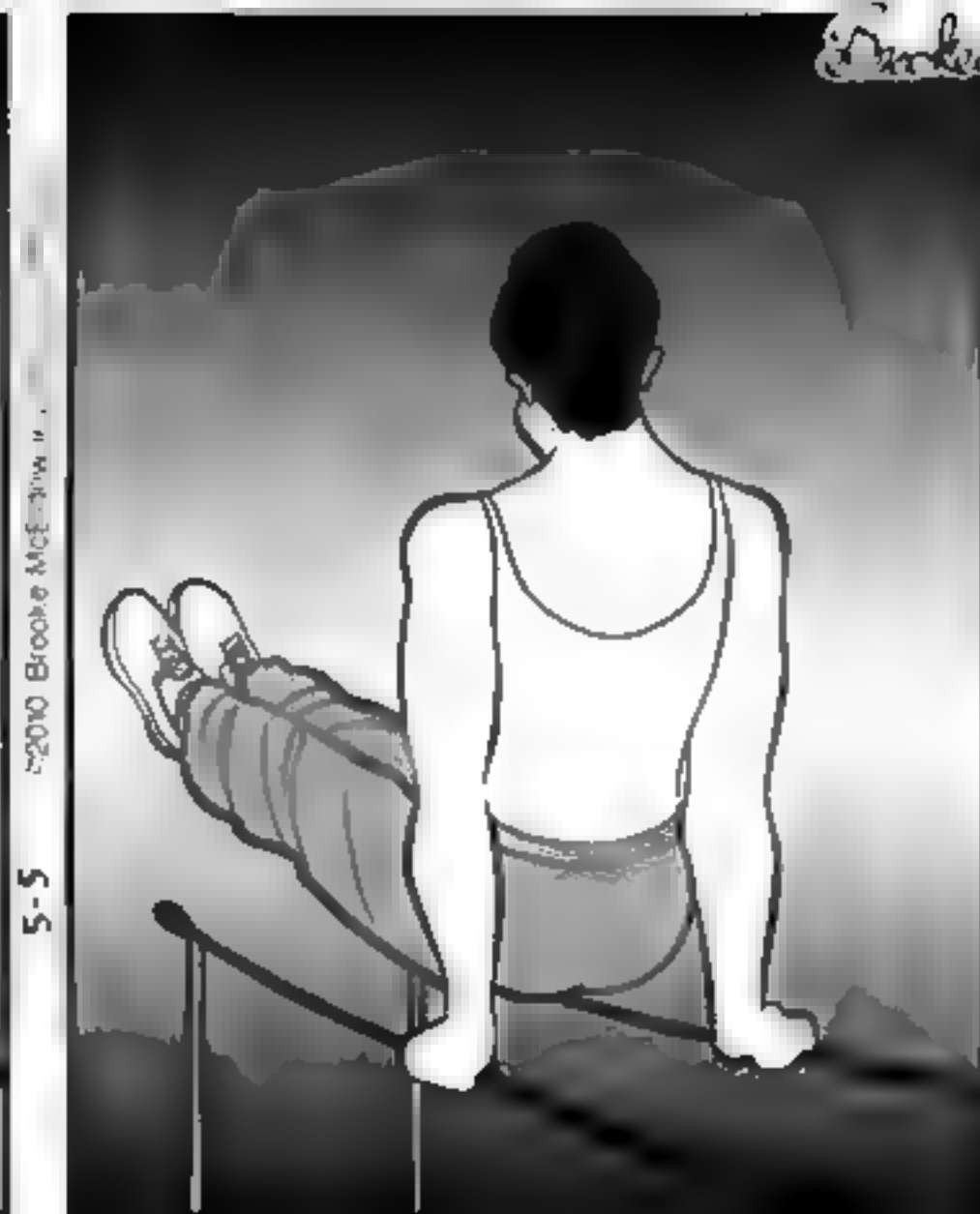
THEN GO  
AHEAD  
WITH THE  
QUESTIONS,  
IF YOU WILL.  
HE'S IN THE  
GYM.

THAT'S ALL  
THERE'S EVER  
BEEN.

BILL, IT'S ME,  
COLONEL  
BAD-PENNY.  
QUICK, WHO'S  
PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED  
STATES?

SHIRLEY  
TEMPLE.











SHE WAITED FOR YOU WHEN YOU WENT MISSING  
IN ACTION. SHE JUST PUT HER LIFE ON  
STAND-BY FOR YEARS. BUT NOW SHE  
THINKS YOU'RE GONE FOR  
GOOD, BILL. SHE HAS TO  
THINK YOU'RE DEAD.

YOU CAN'T  
EXPECT HER TO  
HANG AROUND  
FOREVER.

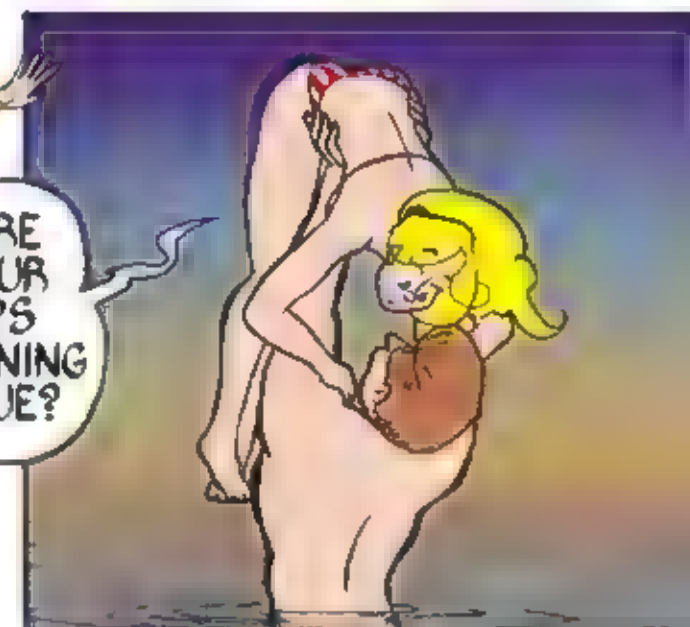
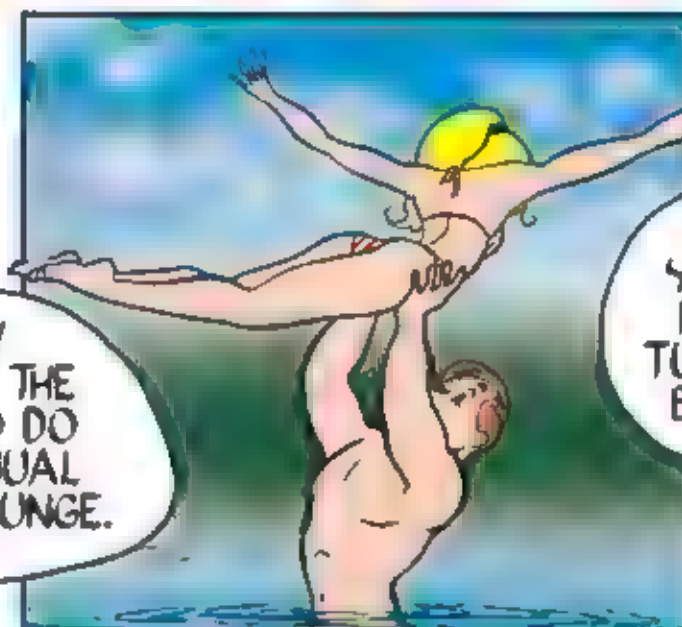
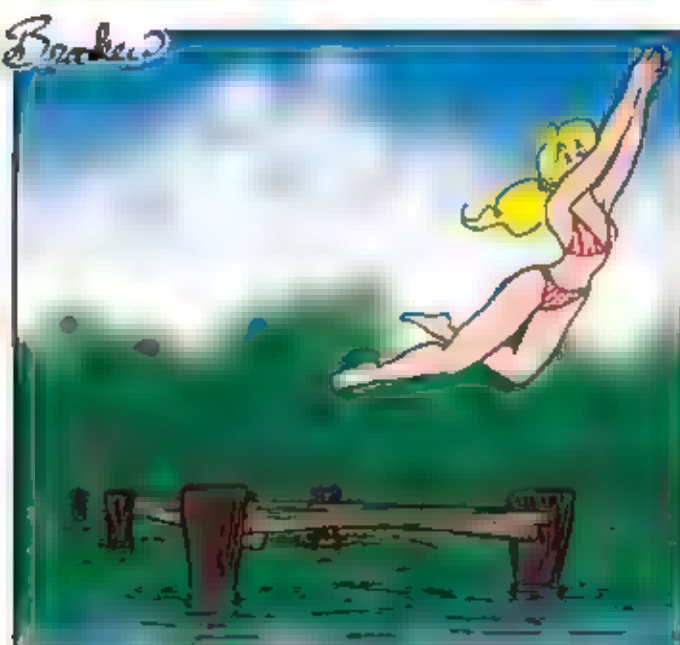
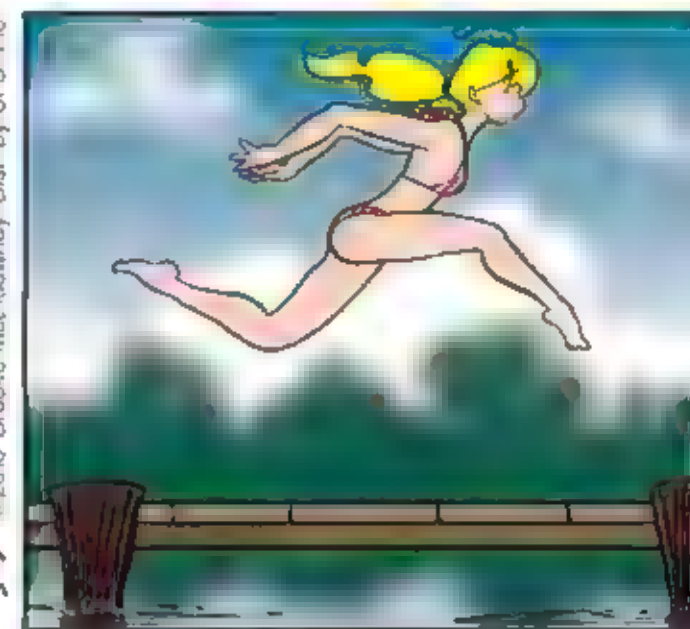
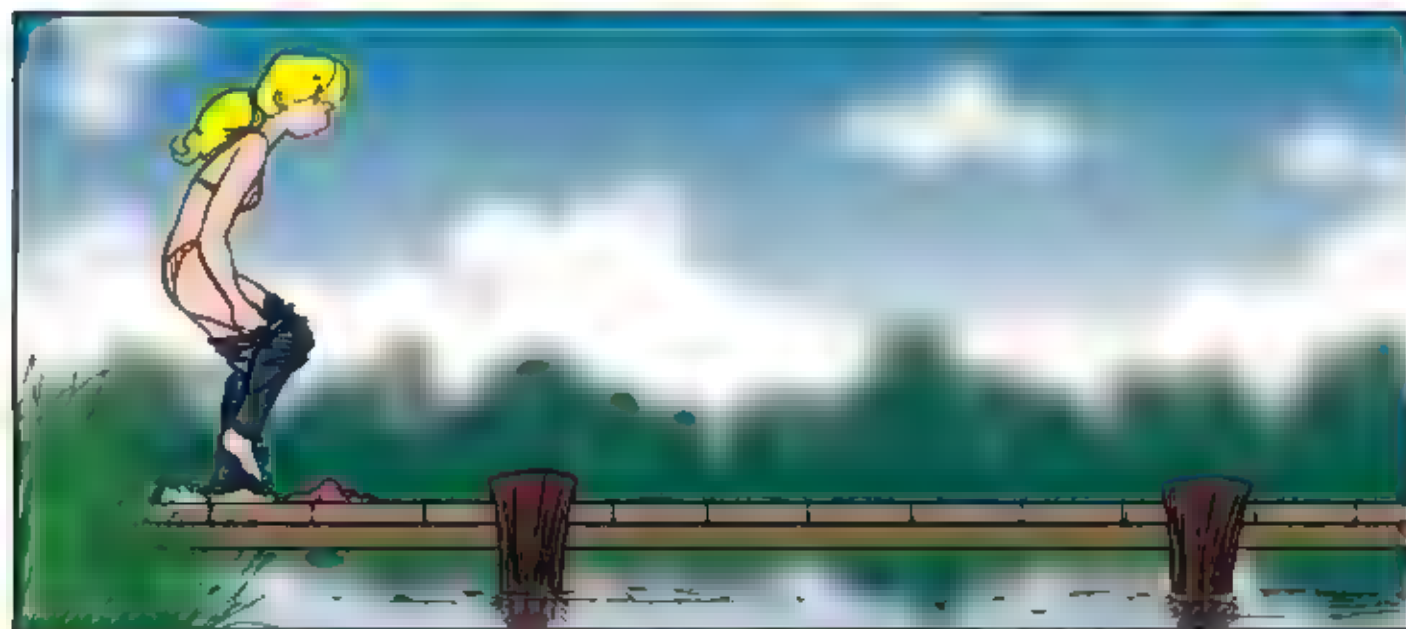
JUST LET  
ME TELL HER  
YOU'RE HERE.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
IS CLARK GABLE. THE VICE PRESIDENT  
IS SHIRLEY TEMPLE...WRITE THAT  
DOWN ON YOUR  
QUESTIONNAIRE.

I'LL  
REMEMBER  
IT.

Brooke

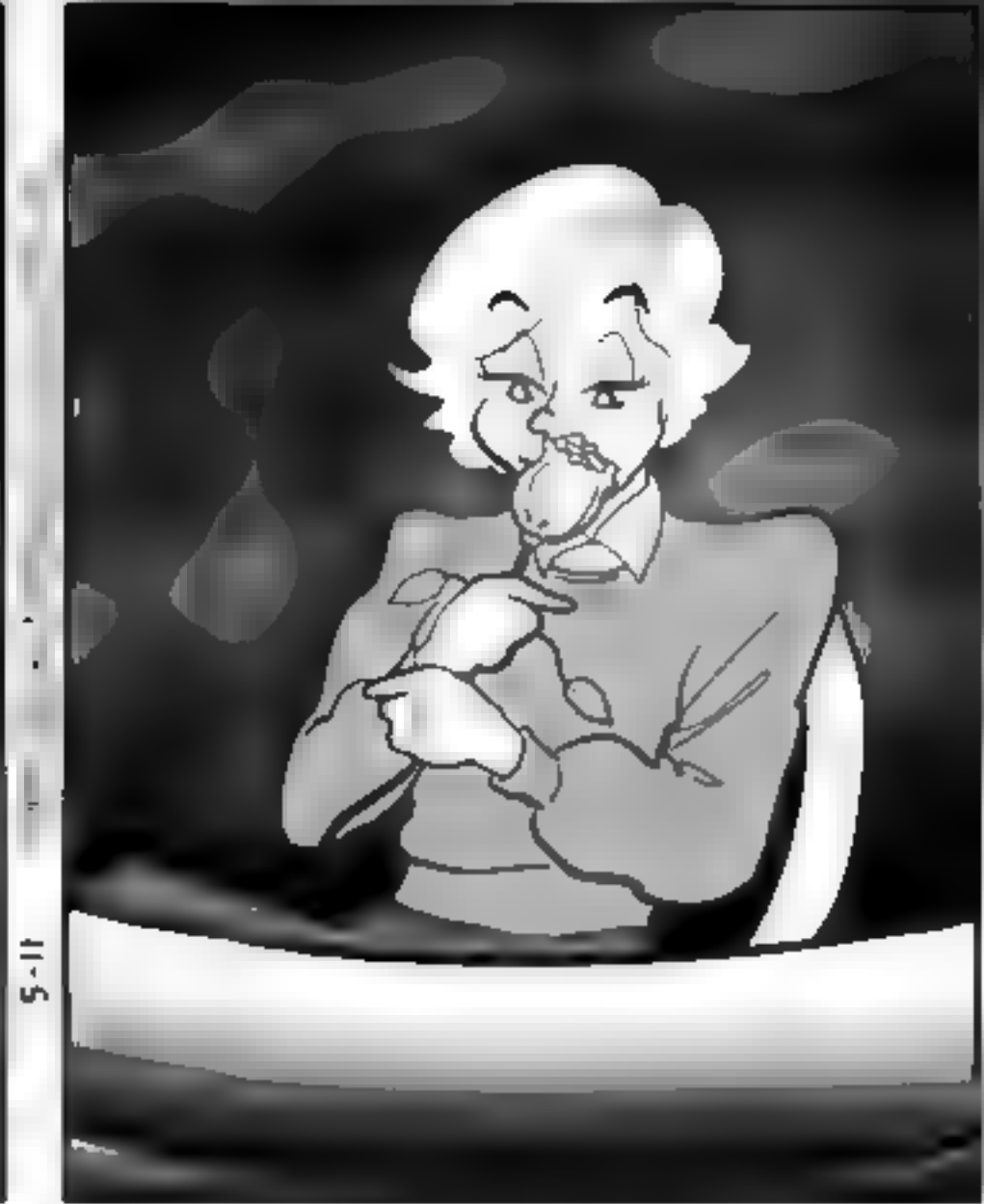
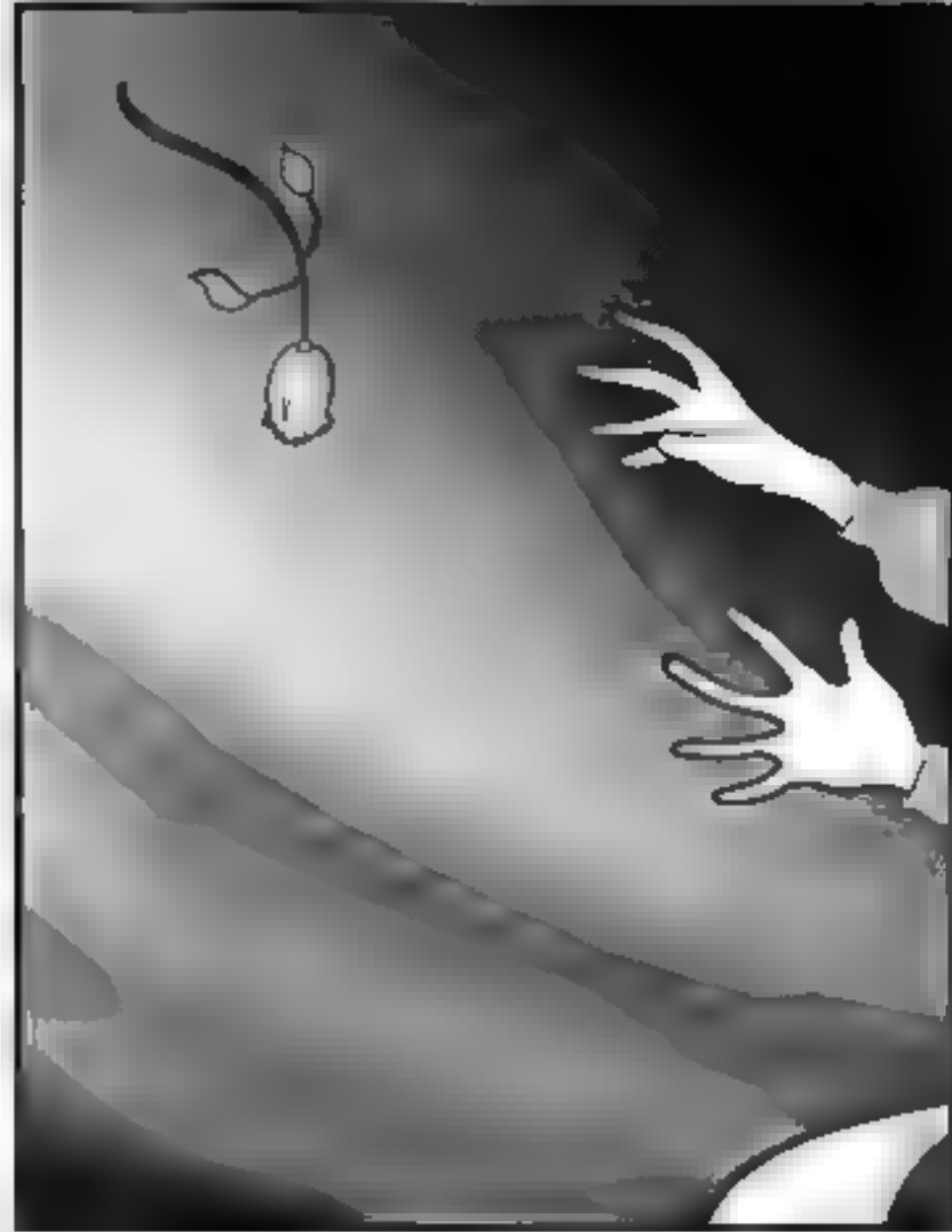


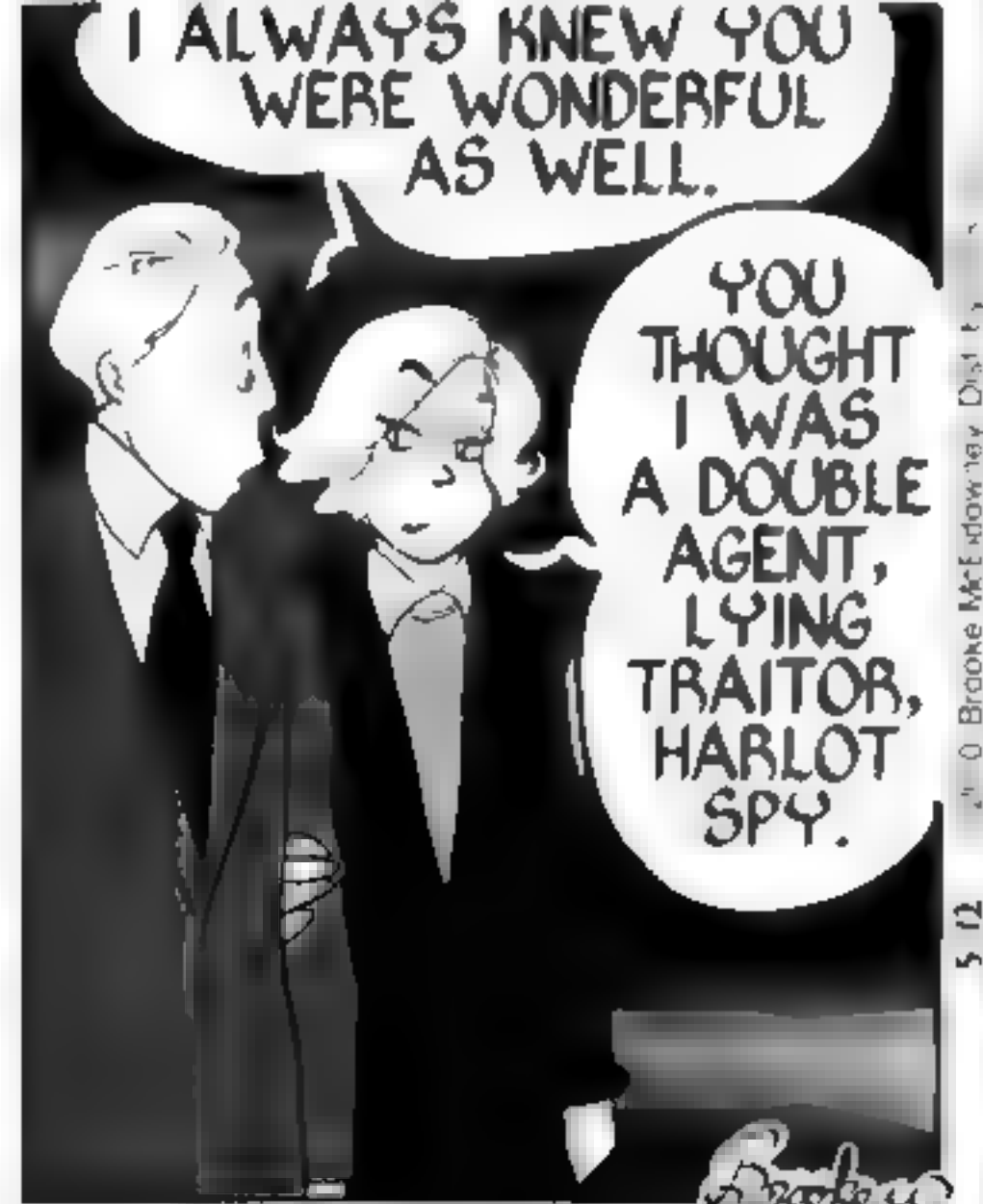


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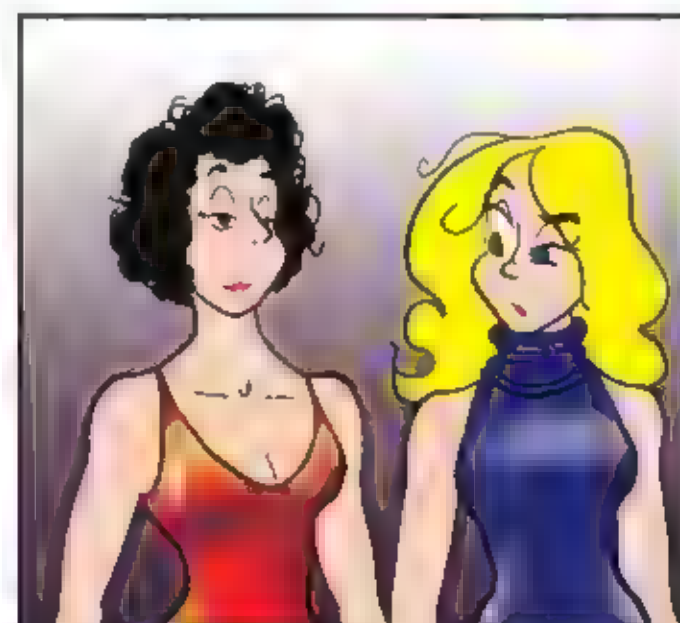
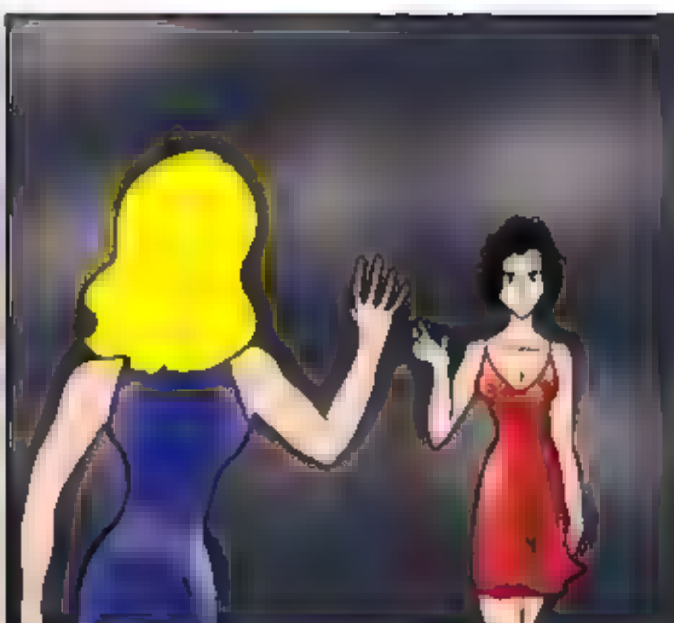
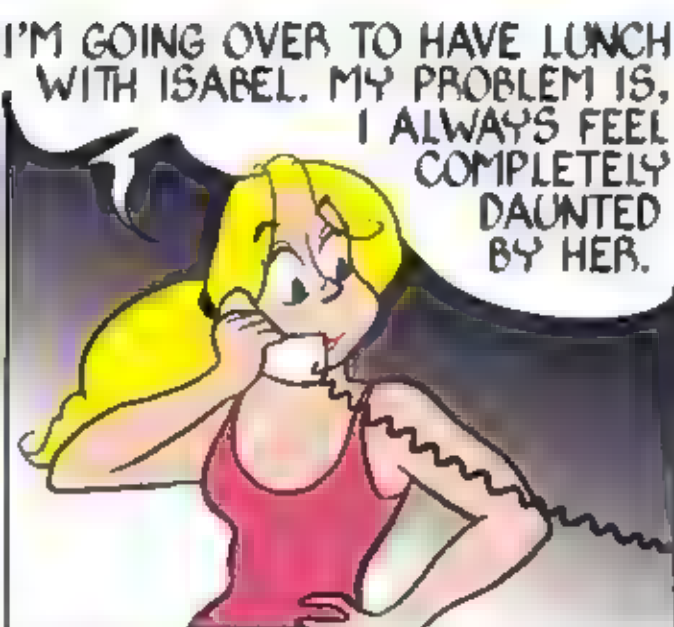














YOU KNOW, BILL DOESN'T REALLY BELIEVE THE LOONY ANSWERS HE GIVES YOU. HE ACTUALLY KNOWS WHO THE VICE PRESIDENT IS.

BETTER THAN ME. AFTER ROOSEVELT, I GAVE UP TRYING.

I'M JUST SAYING HE'S OKAY.

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COLONEL, HE CAME OUT OF AN EXTENDED COMA, AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER SPEAKING FRENCH, BUT UNABLE TO CONJURE A WORD IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE. HE HAD NO OTHER MEMORY. IT TOOK HIM FOREVER TO RECALL EVEN A NAME, AND THAT WASN'T HIS OWN... IT WAS EDIE.

HE SUSTAINED MASSIVE HEAD TRAUMA, FROM WHICH HE'S HAD TO REBUILD FOR YEARS. HE RECALLS ONLY BITS AND PIECES OF HIS LIFE, EXCLUDING THE ENTIRE INVASION OF FRANCE, AND HE HAS SEIZURES FROM WHICH HE WILL NEVER BE FREE. I THINK HE'S ACHIEVED A LOT, BUT I HESITATE TO SAY HE'S "OKAY."

I WORRY ABOUT HIM JUST SLIPPING AWAY IF HE WON'T GET OUT THERE AND...

AND WHAT? ...FIGHT? HE DID THAT, COLONEL. AND HE'S STILL FITTING TOGETHER THE PIECES. THE OLD ARMY PEP TALK WON'T WORK HERE.

Brooke

I JUST  
FEEL THAT  
IF BILL  
COULD  
SEE EDIE...  
...TALK TO  
HER...

HE WANTS  
TO BE WHOLE.  
THAT HAS BEEN  
A DRIVING GOAL  
FOR HIM,  
SOMETHING TO  
HOLD ON TO.  
AND HIS SENSE  
OF TIME  
PASSED IS  
NOT THE  
SAME AS  
OURS.



BUT WHAT IF EDIE  
CAN'T HOLD ON?

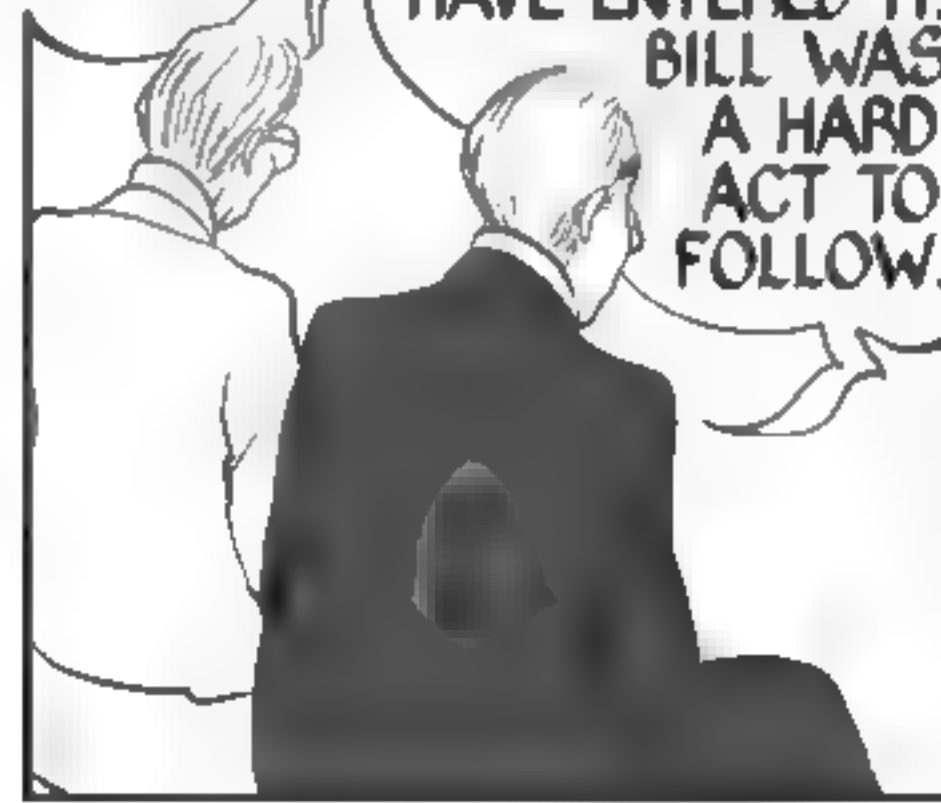
TELL  
HER.

I GAVE MY  
WORD TO  
BILL...NOT  
TILL HE  
SAYS  
SO.



I GUESS IT'S JUST  
FORTUNATE FOR BILL  
THAT SHE HASN'T  
GOT ON WITH  
HER OWN  
LIFE.

SHE HAS  
GOTTEN ON.  
BUT NO MEN  
HAVE ENTERED IT.  
BILL WAS  
A HARD  
ACT TO  
FOLLOW.



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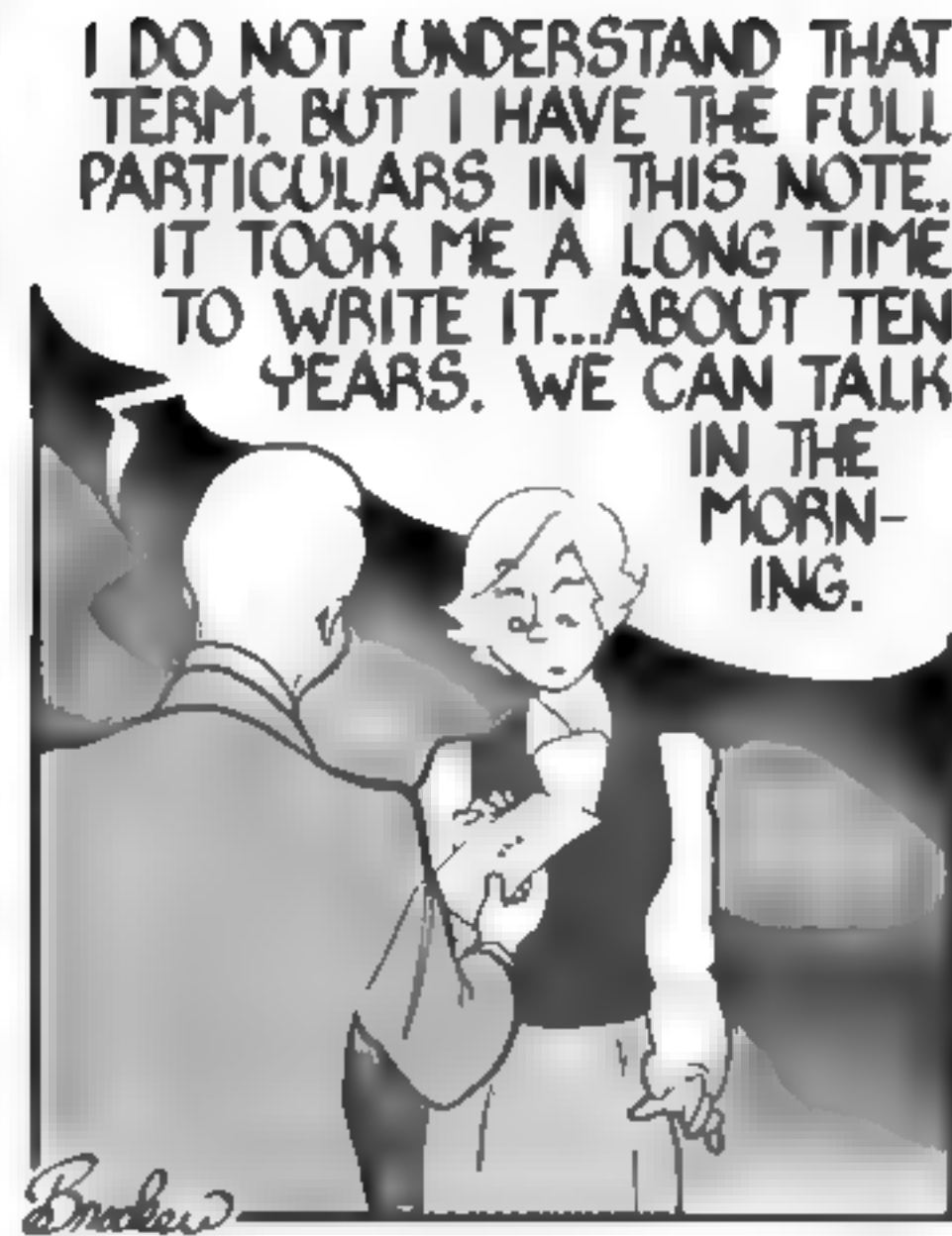




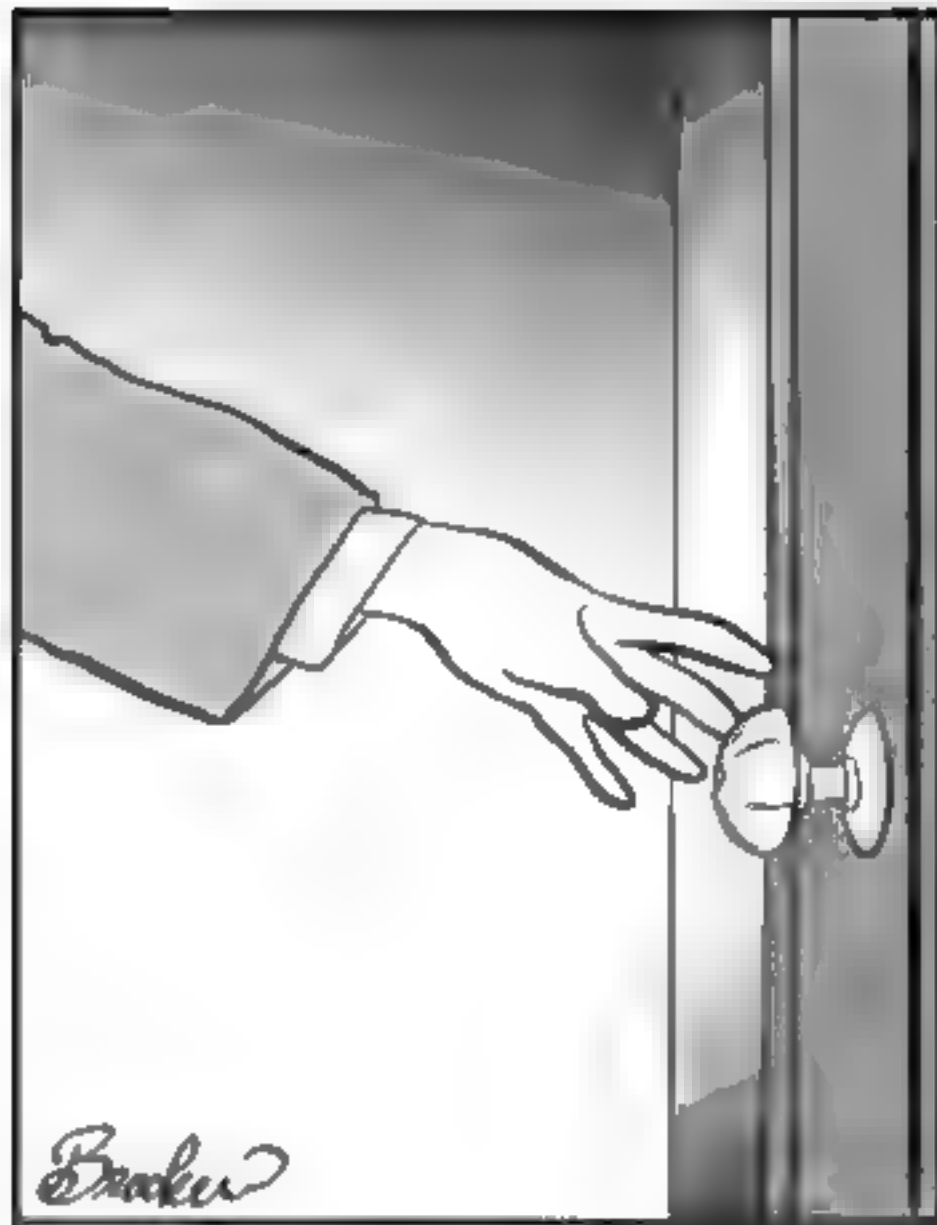


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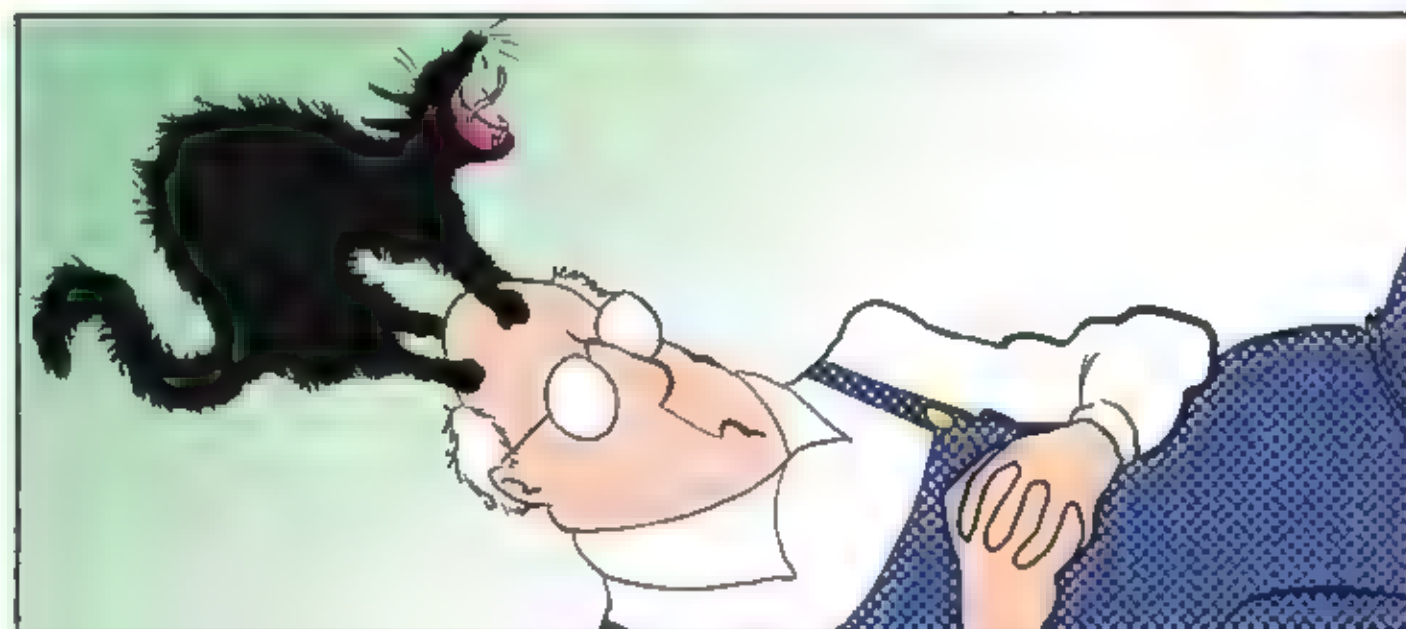
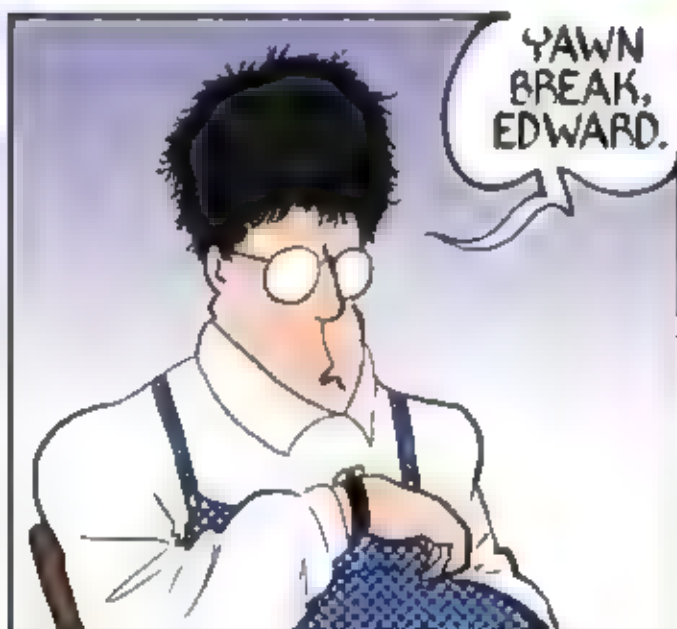
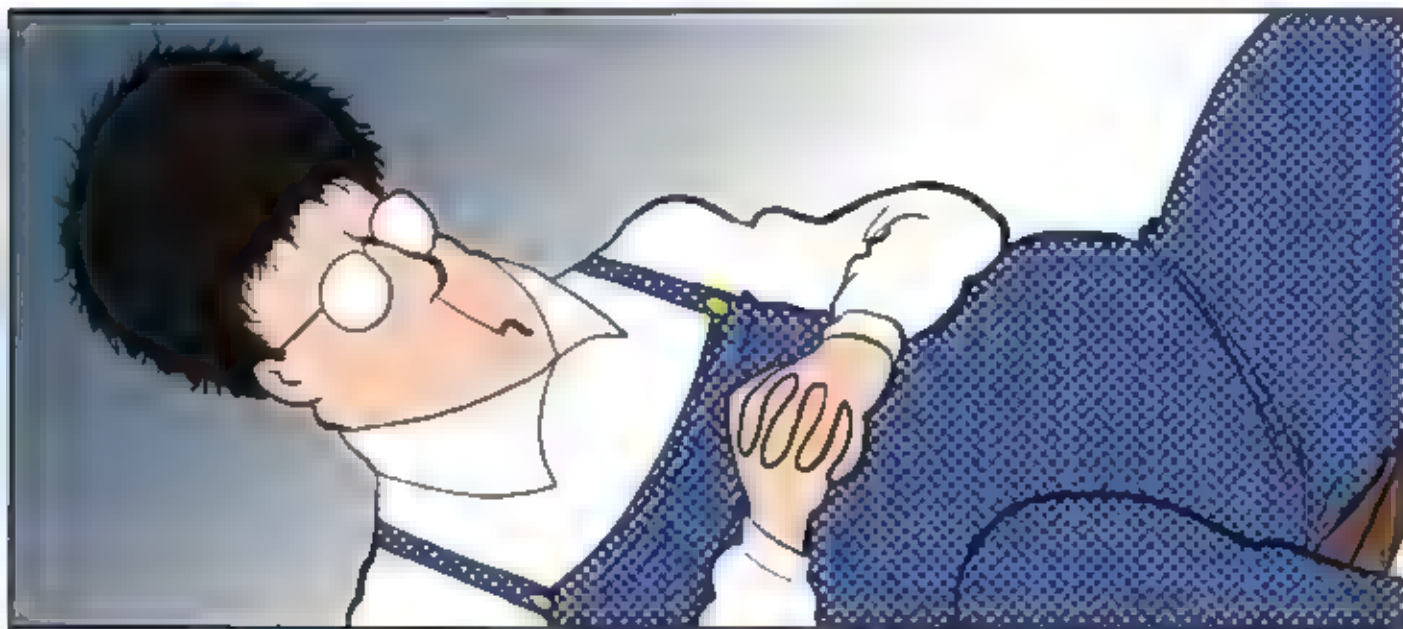




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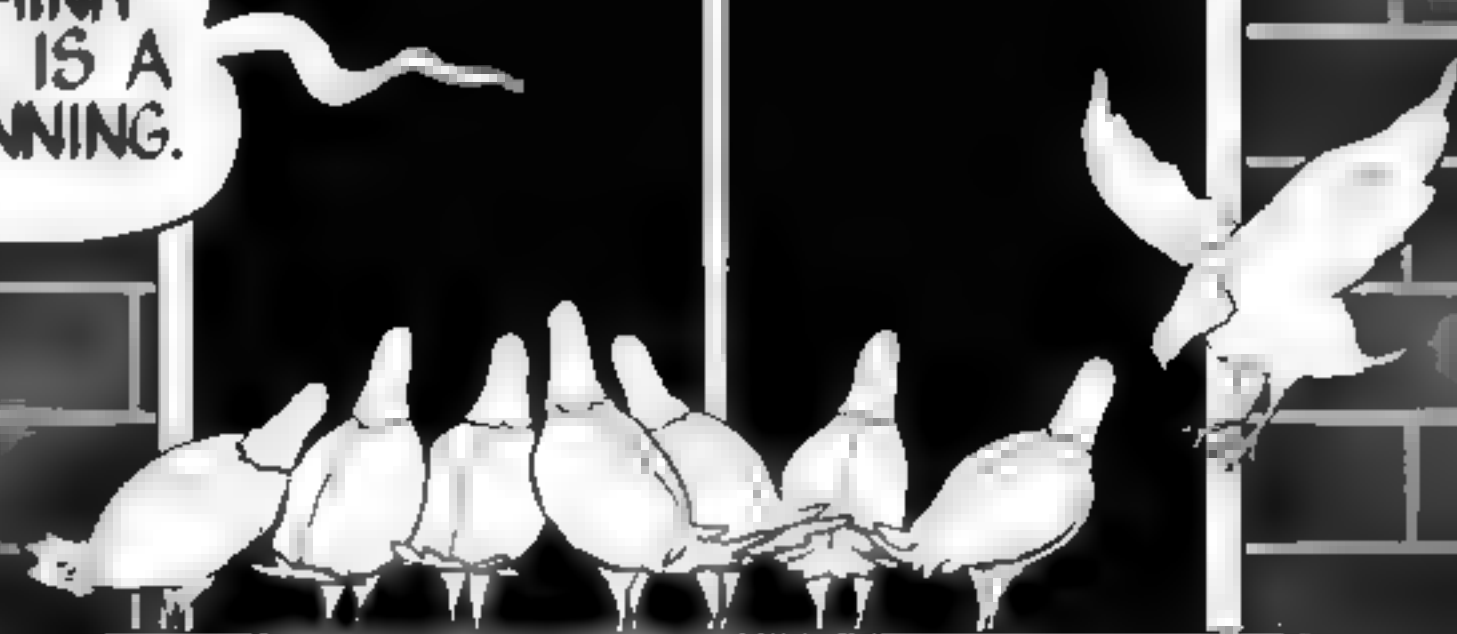






I'VE  
ALWAYS  
BEEN A  
PRIVATE  
PERSON...  
...BUT RIGHT  
NOW I WANT  
THE WHOLE  
CITY TO KNOW  
HOW MUCH  
I'M IN  
LOVE.

WELL,  
I THINK  
THIS IS A  
BEGINNING.





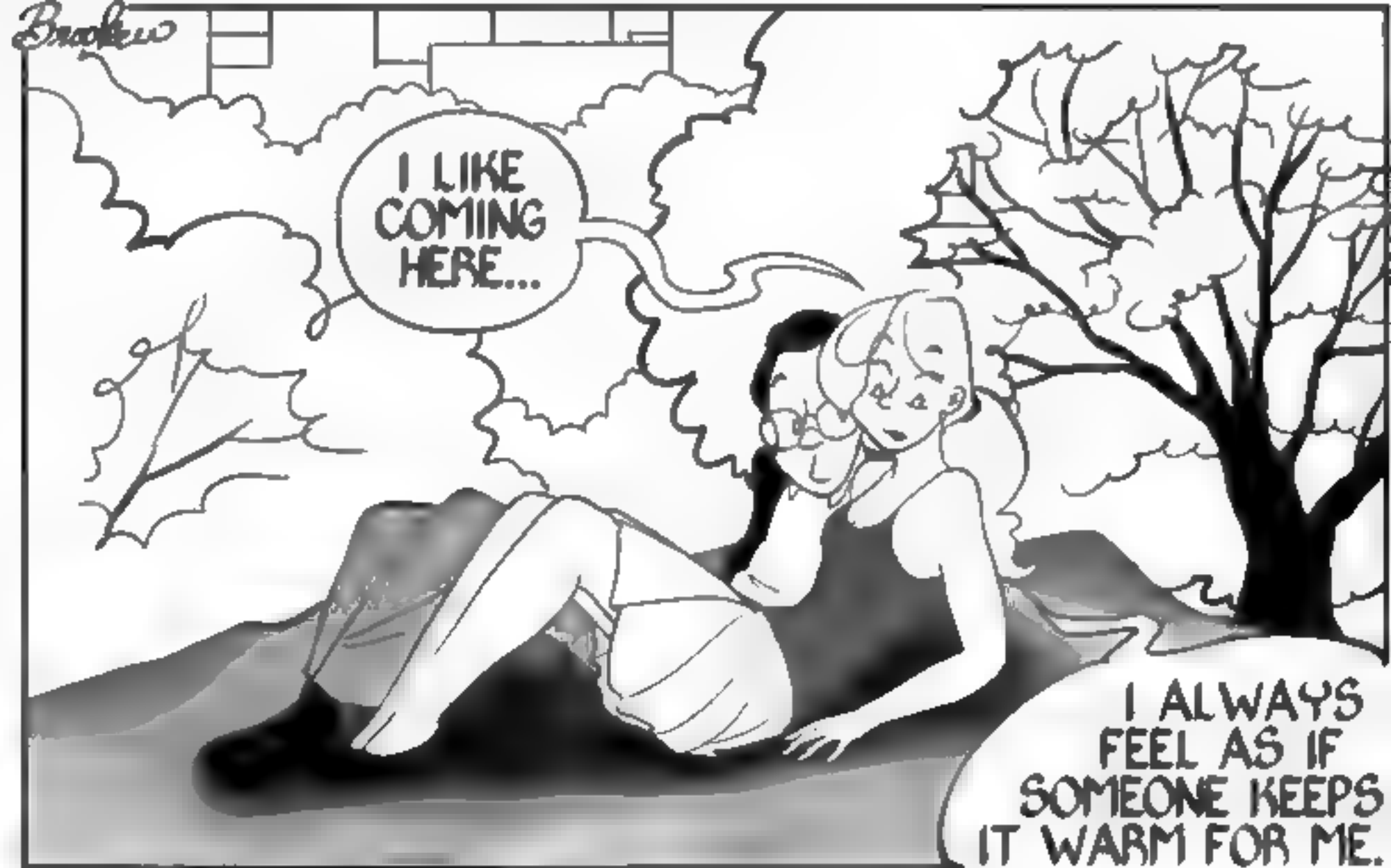
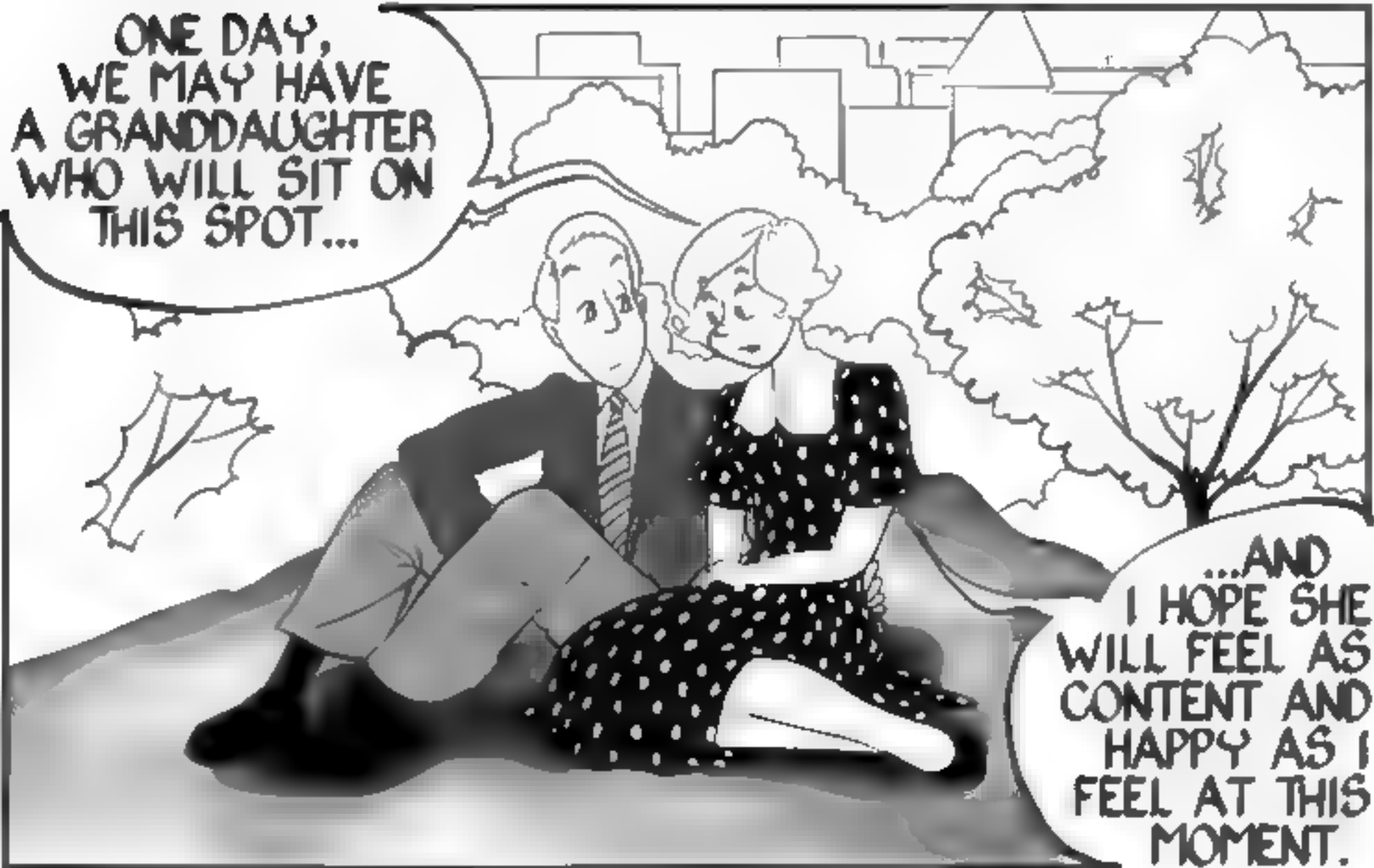
UPON MATURE REFLECTION,  
I THINK HAPPINESS  
SHOULDN'T OVERWHELM  
DISCRETION. SOMEHOW  
OUR TIME TOGETHER  
IS SO MUCH MORE  
SPECIAL  
WHEN IT'S  
PRIVATE.



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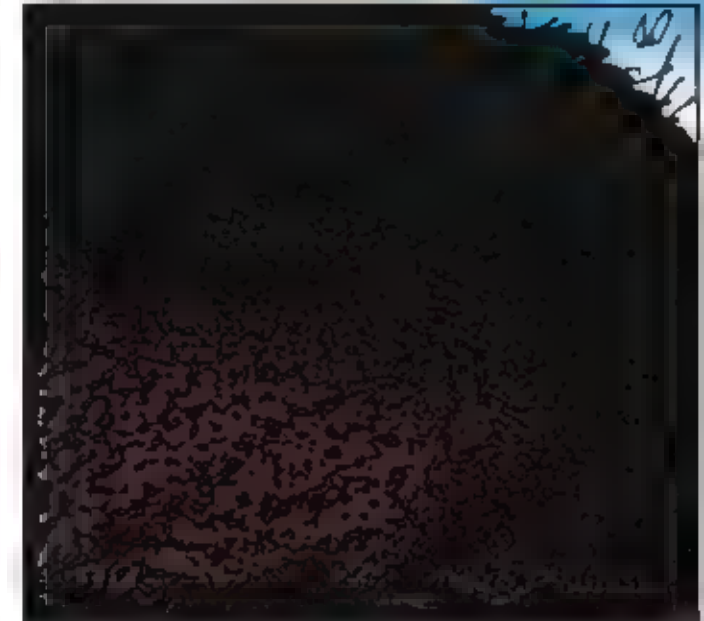
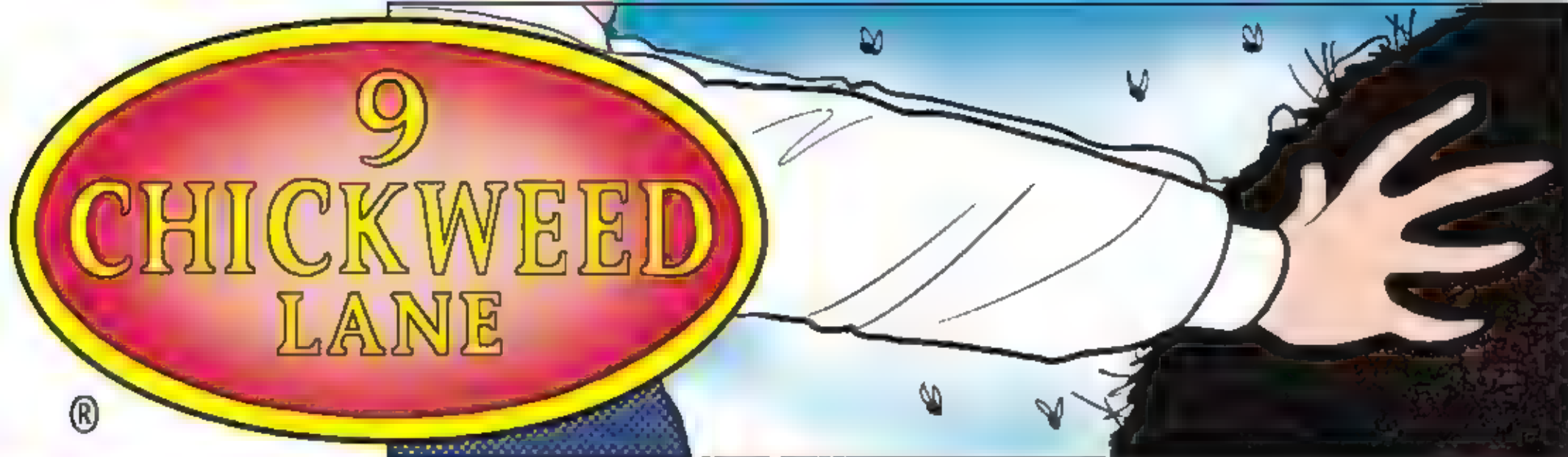
I ENTIRELY AGREE.  
SHALL WE SLIP  
QUIETLY  
OUT AND  
TAKE  
A WALK  
IN THE  
PARK?



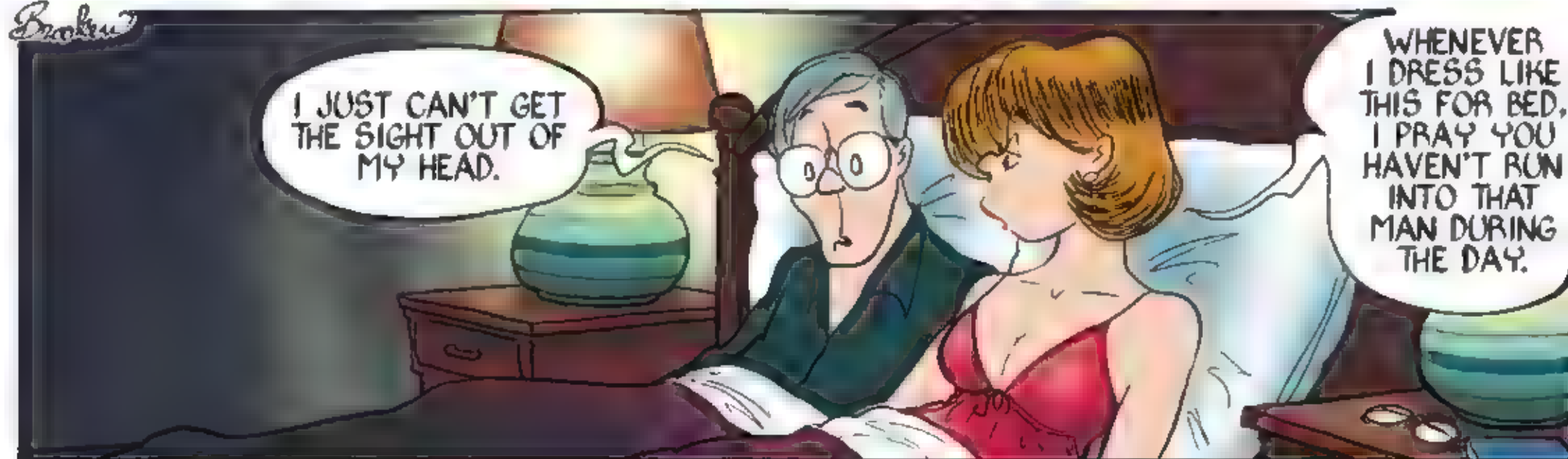
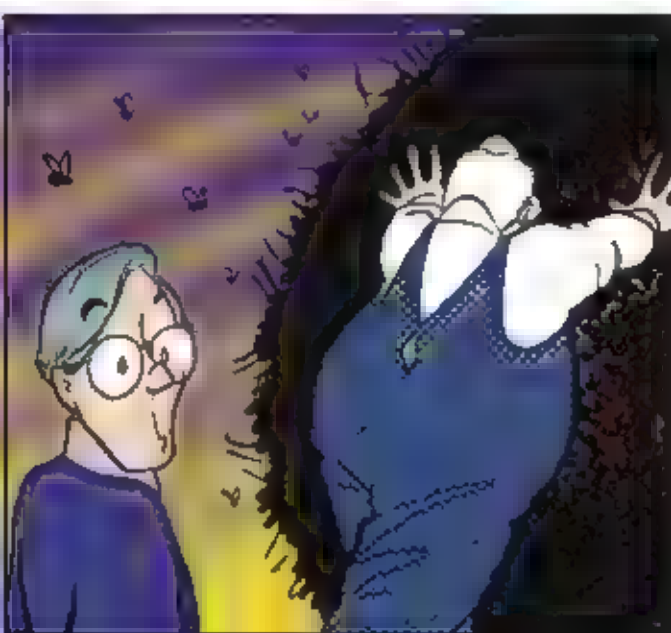




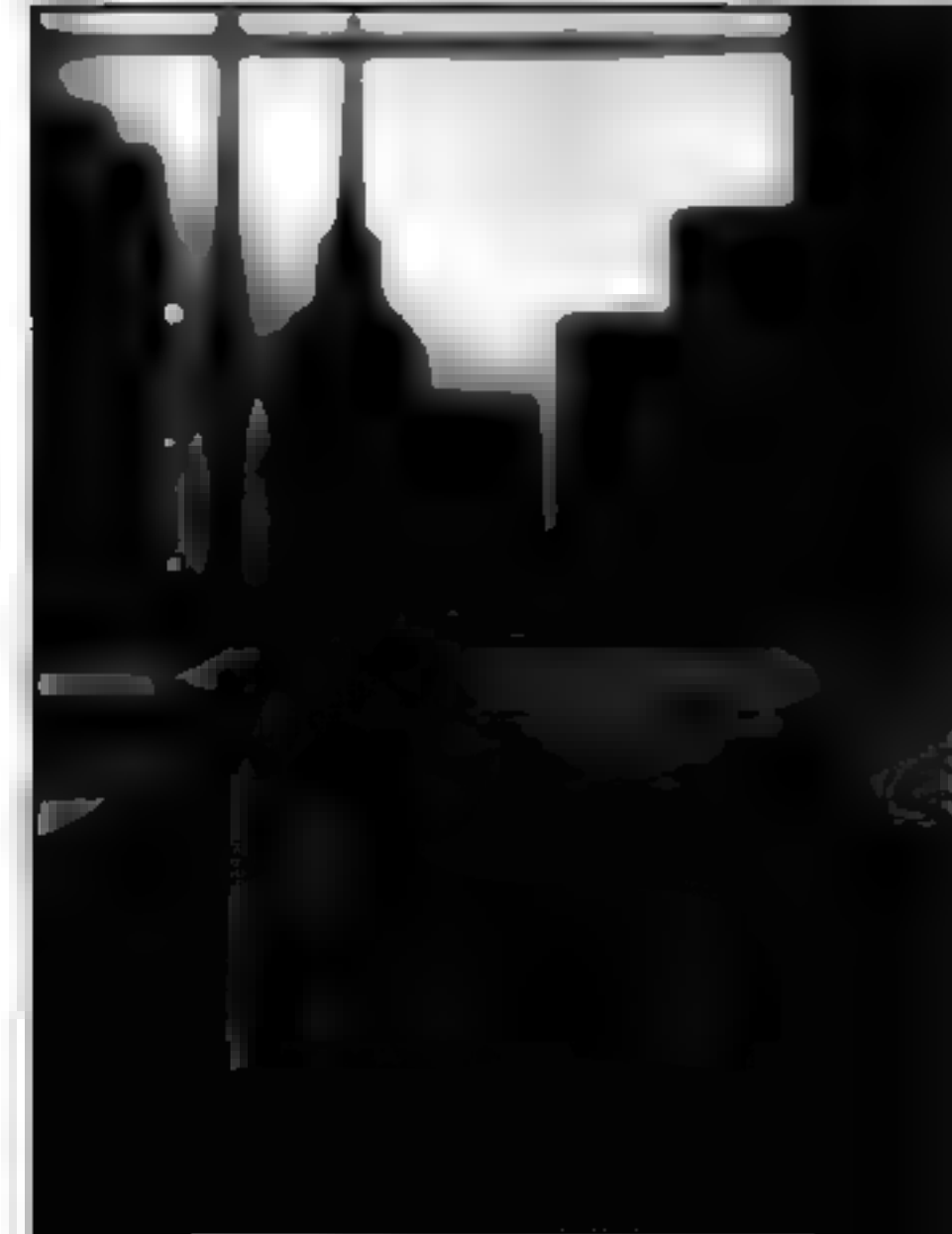
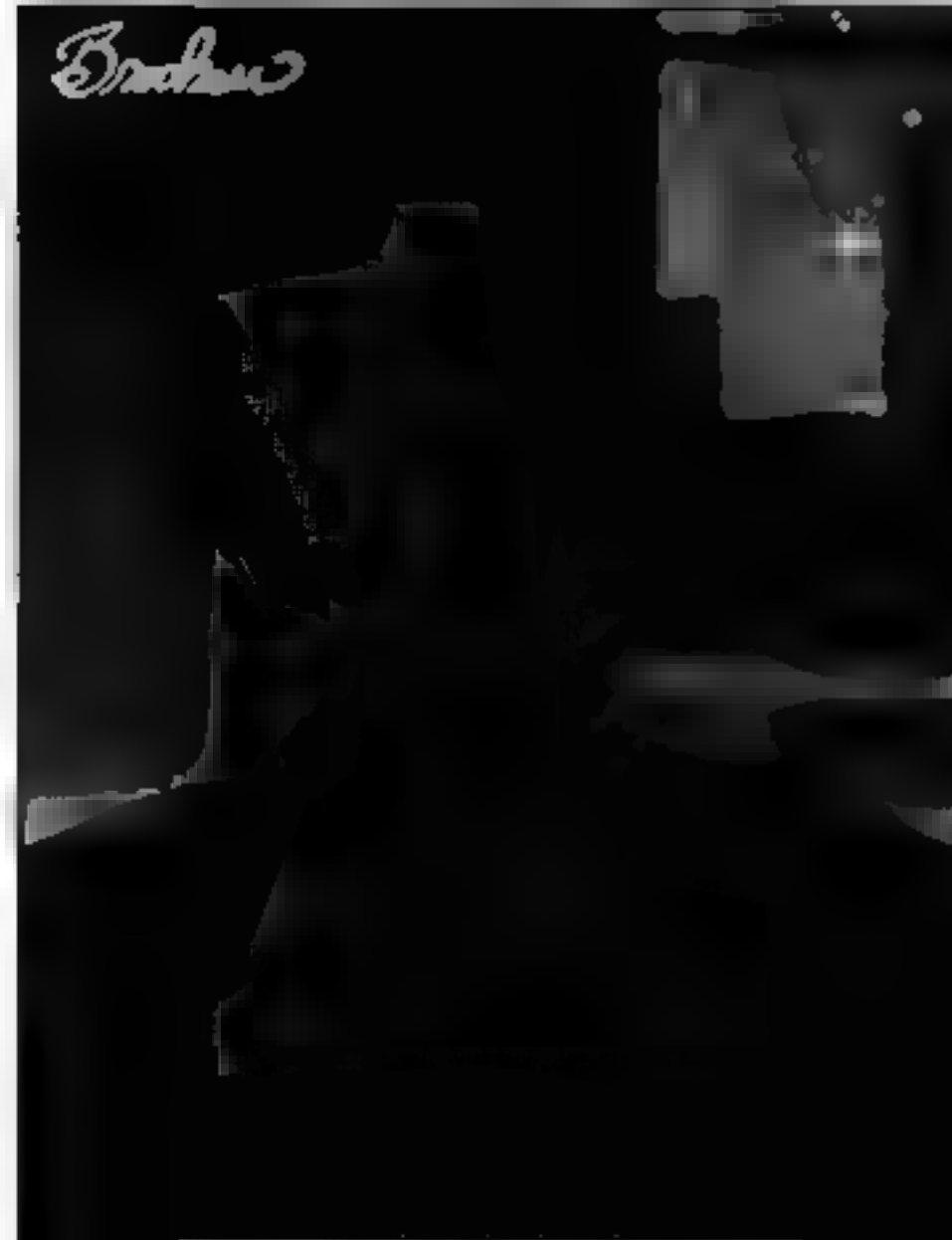




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HAVE YOU TOLD  
ANYBODY  
YET?

NO, I  
HAVEN'T  
BEEN  
IN A  
LETTER-  
WRITING  
MOOD.  
...HAVE  
YOU?

6-1 © 2010 Brooke McEldowney Dist. by UFS Inc.

I'VE ONLY TOLD FRIENDS AT  
THE OPERA. THEY WANT TO  
THROW US AN ENGAGEMENT  
PARTY BEFORE WE LEAVE  
FOR VIENNA.

YOU CAN  
INVITE  
ANYONE  
YOU  
LIKE.

WELL...







6-2 ©1990 Brooke McEldowney Dist by UFS Inc









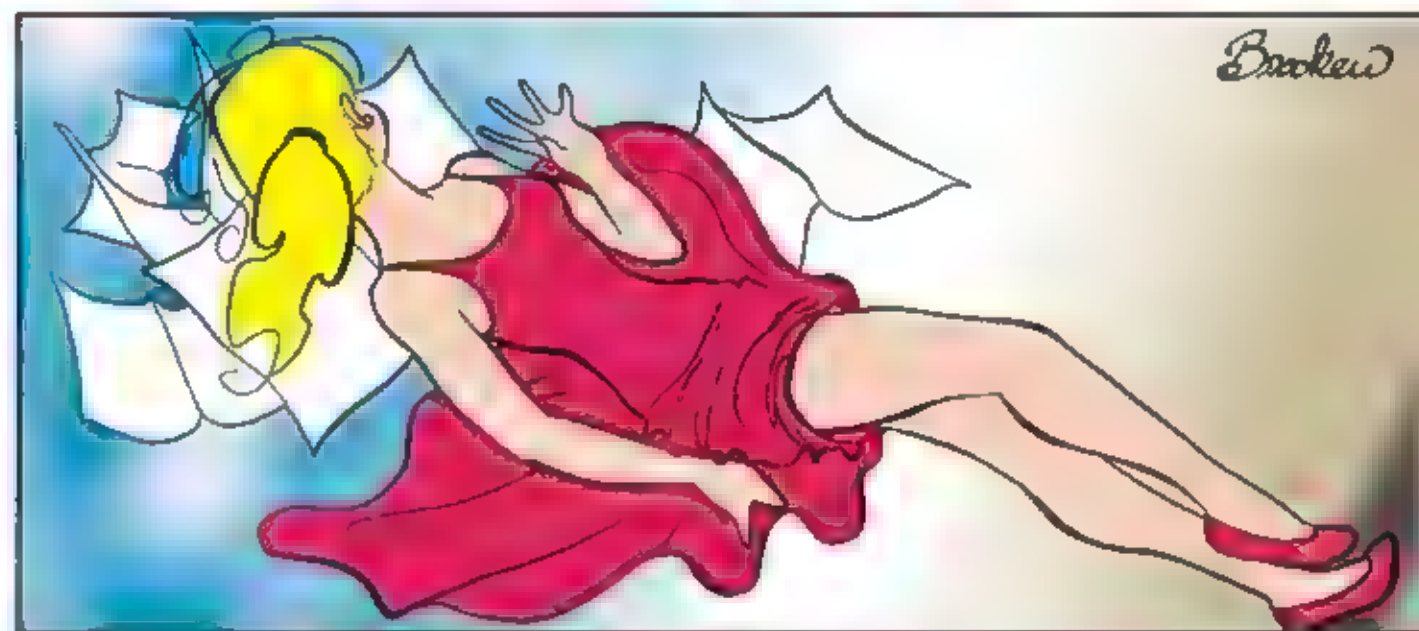


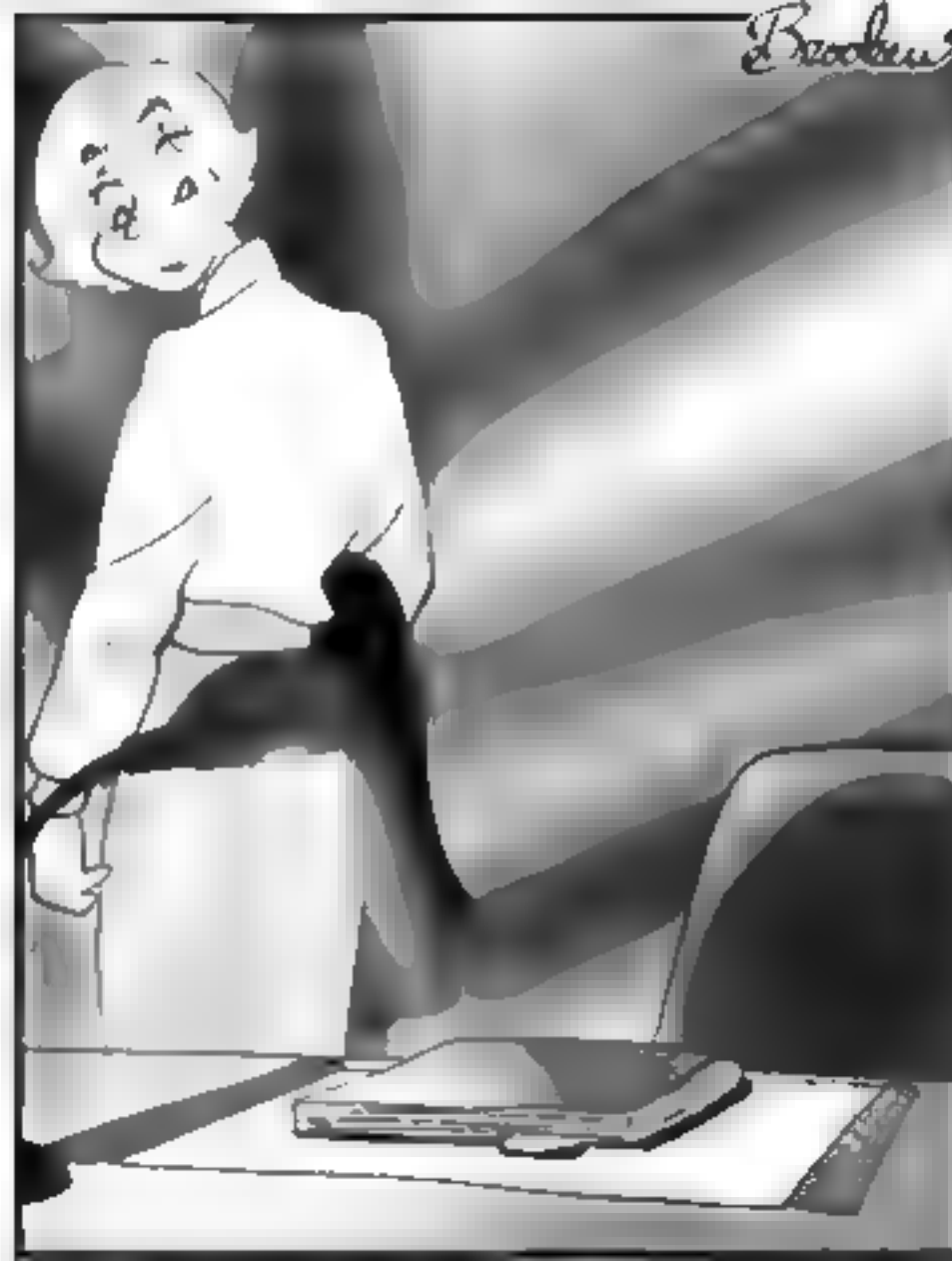


# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

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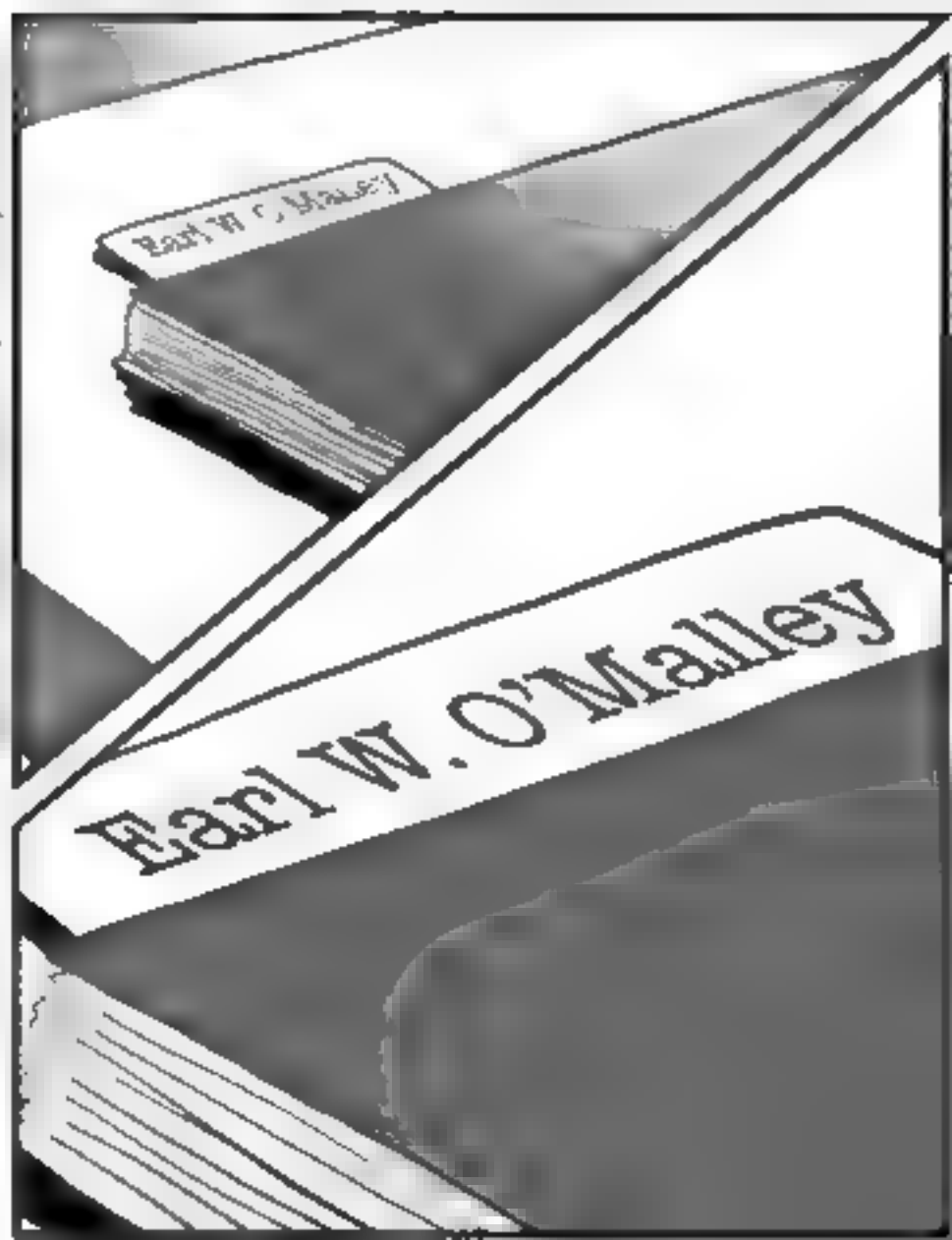
IT SAYS THE WEATHER TODAY  
WILL BE CLEAR AND  
BREEZY...



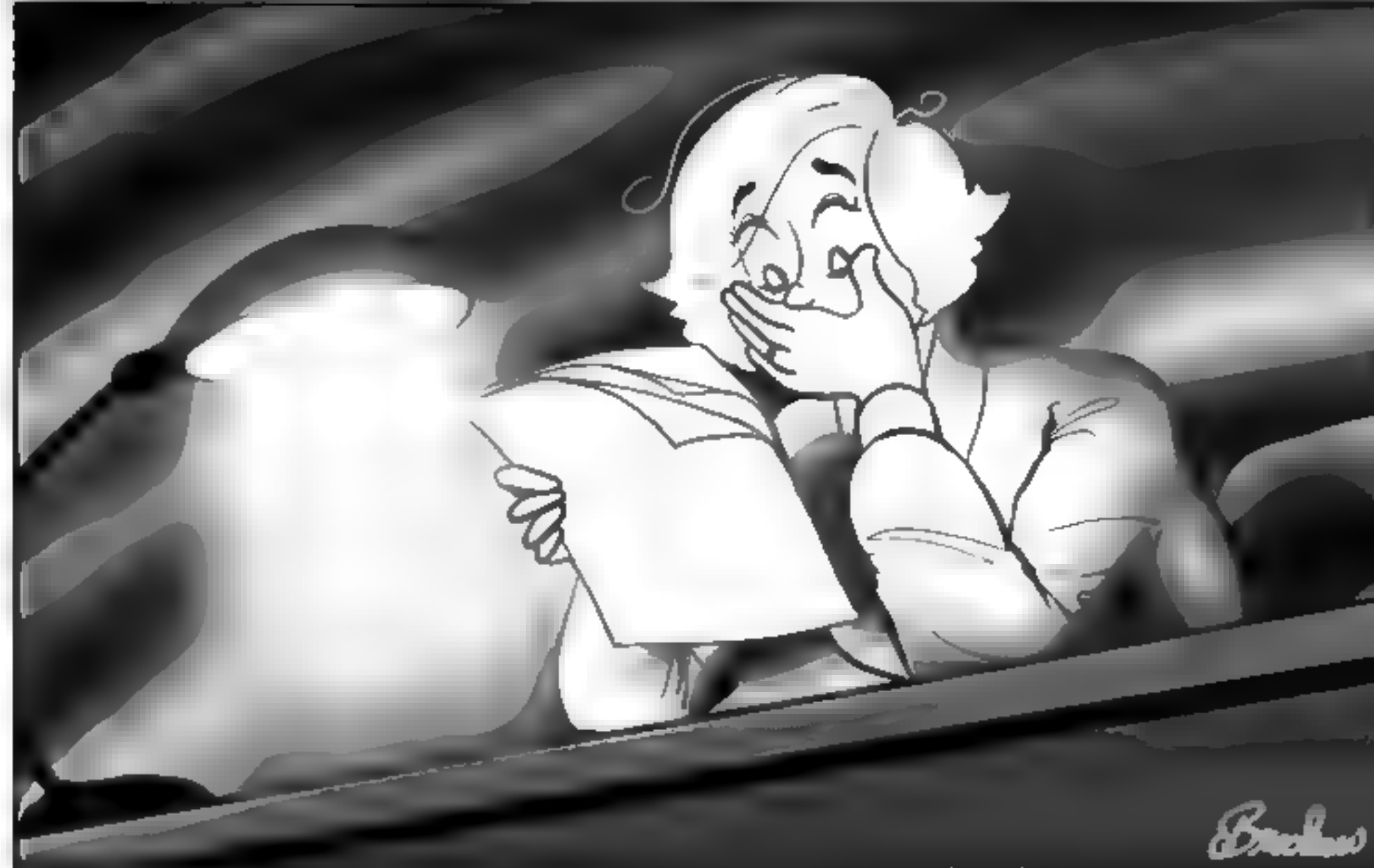
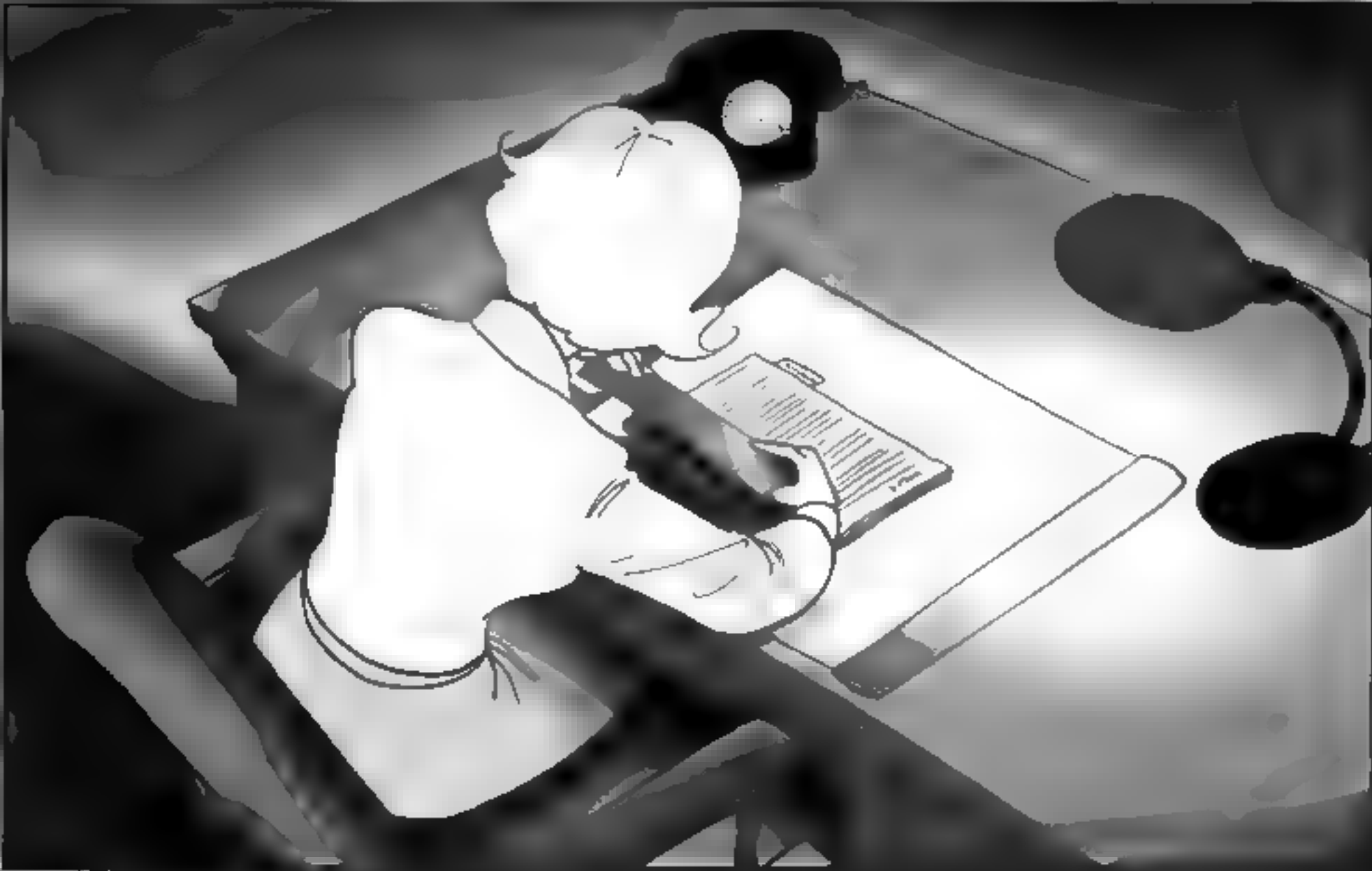


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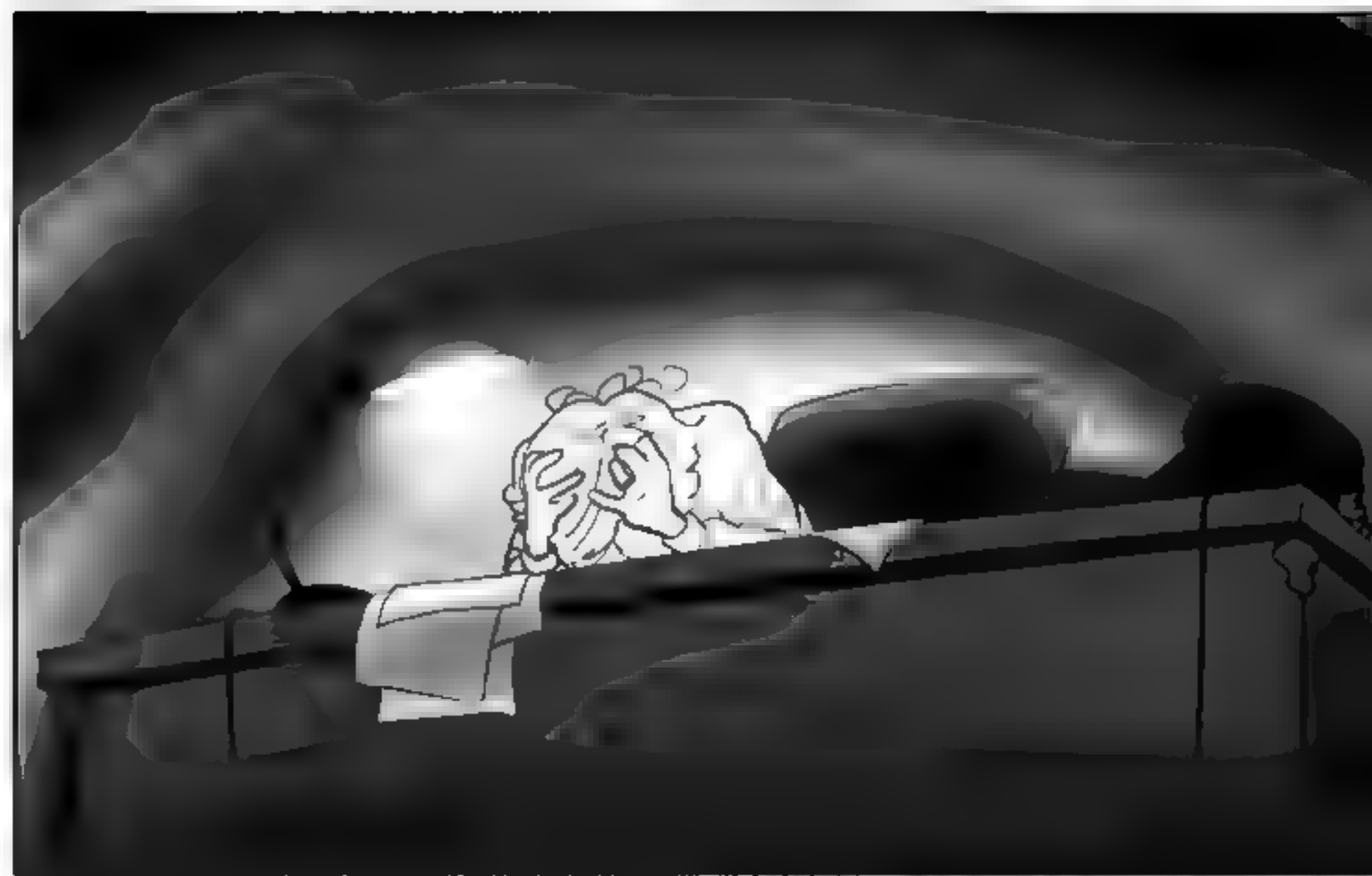
6-7







Beckman



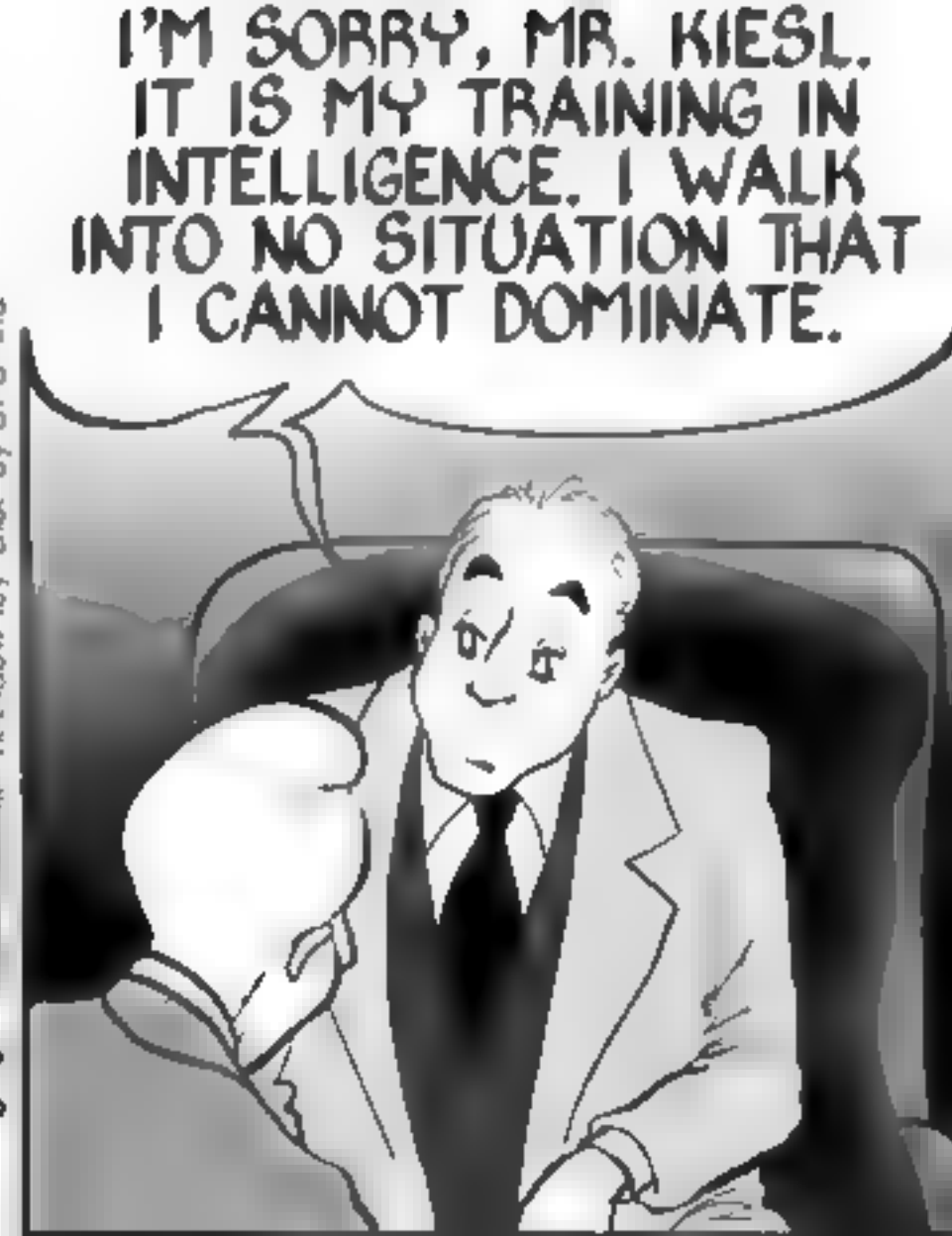


...I HAVE TO  
TELL EVA.  
SHE SHOULD  
KNOW.

SHE ALREADY  
DOES. I LEFT  
BILL'S FILE  
ON MY DESK.



6-0 M. E. Idowney Dist. by UFS Inc.



YOU PROMISED LT. O'MALLEY  
THAT YOU WOULD NOT  
TELL EVA.

YES, WELL THE TWO OF  
YOU FORCED MY HAND.  
AND TECHNICALLY, I DID  
NOT TELL  
HER.

THAT  
WAS NOT  
THE HONORABLE  
WAY TO DEAL  
WITH HIM.

BILL NEARLY PAID THE PRICE IN FRANCE  
BECAUSE OF ME. I WILL NOW SAVE HIM,  
IF I CAN. IF THAT CANNOT BE BY HONORABLE  
MEANS, I SHALL OPT FOR EFFECTIVE ONES.



IN MY OSS DAYS, WE  
CONQUERED PEOPLE BECAUSE  
THEY THEY COULD NOT LAY  
DOWN THE FARDEL OF HONOR.  
AND RIGHT NOW, I'M PRETTY  
CERTAIN YOU'RE  
ONE OF THOSE  
PEOPLE.

OR HAVE I MADE  
YOU OUT WRONG?



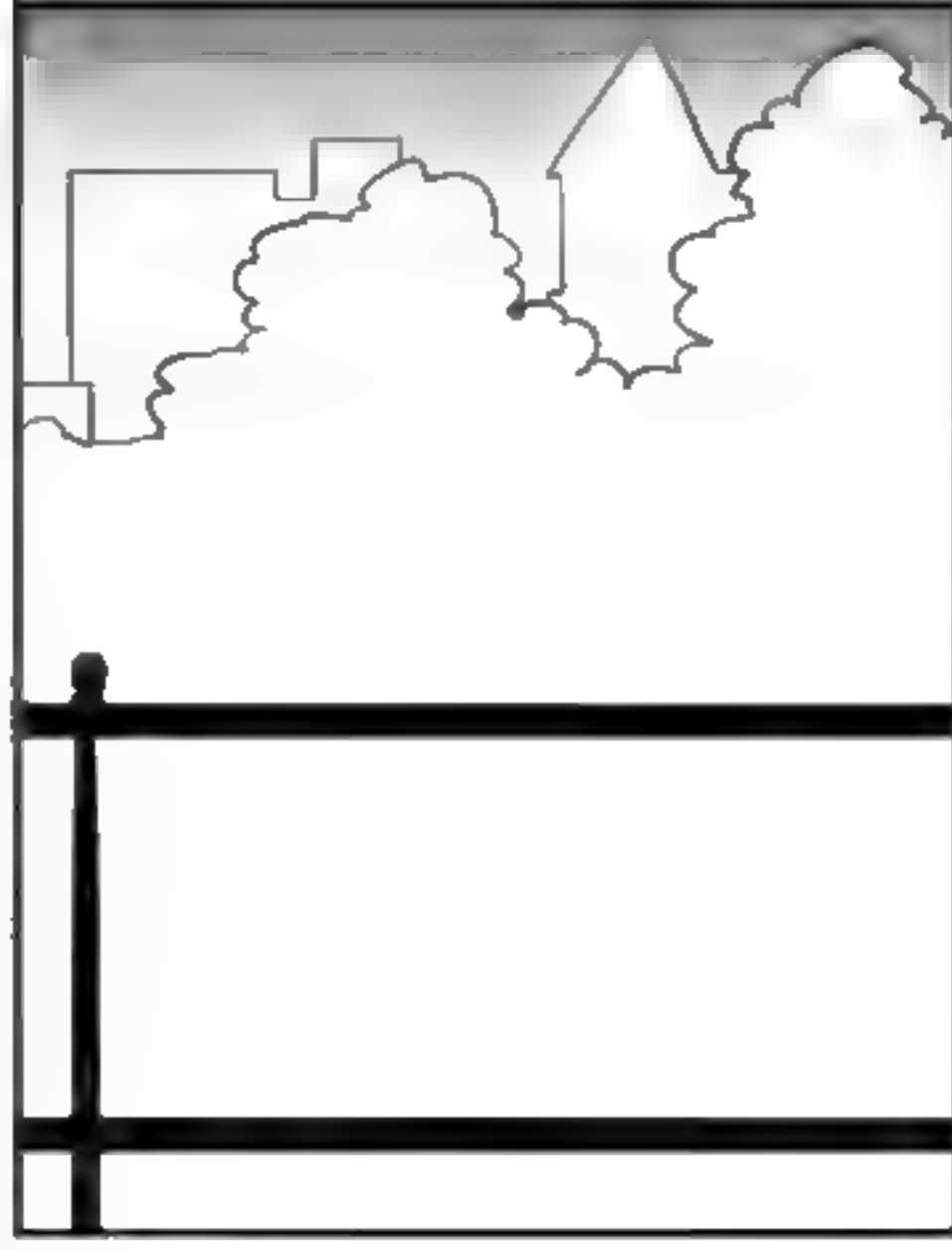
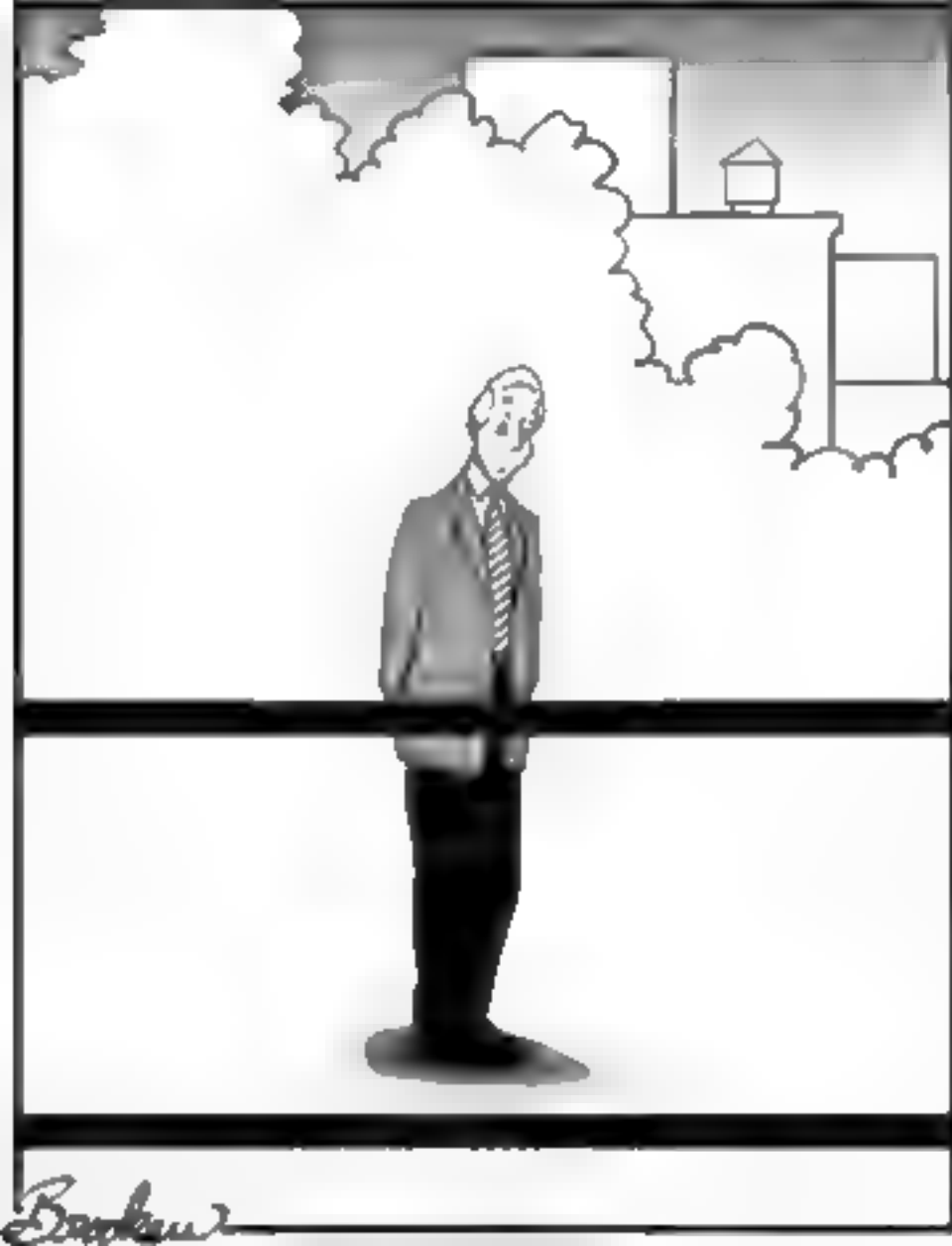
I  
DIDN'T  
THINK  
SO.



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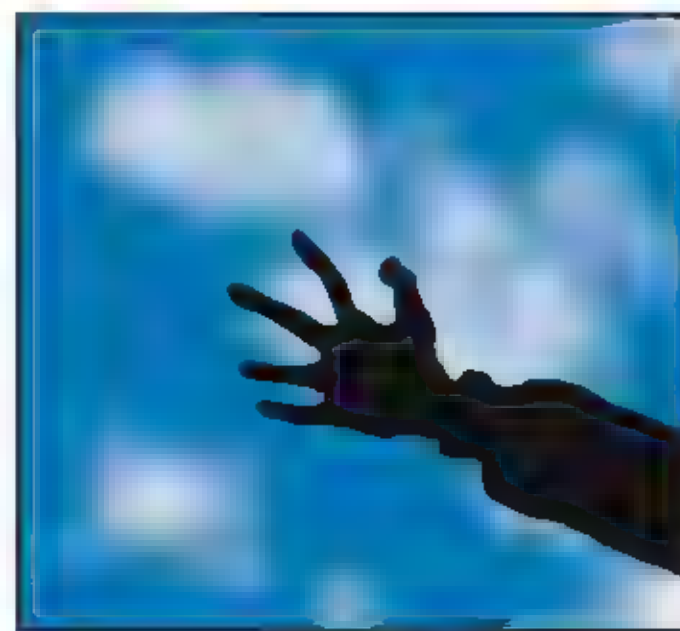
Brooke





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6-13 ©2010 Brooke McElidowney Dist. by JFS Inc.







6-14 ©2010 Brooke M. Ellaway. Desl by UFS, Inc.



WOULD YOU  
HOLD ME?



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*Brooke*



YOU PATTED MY BACK!  
YOU LIGHTLY GAVE ME A  
"THERE THERE" PAT.



SINCE WHEN DO YOU NOT  
KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH  
YOUR ARMS AROUND ME!?

...YOU'RE ABOUT TO  
HAUL OFF AND BE...  
...HONORABLE!

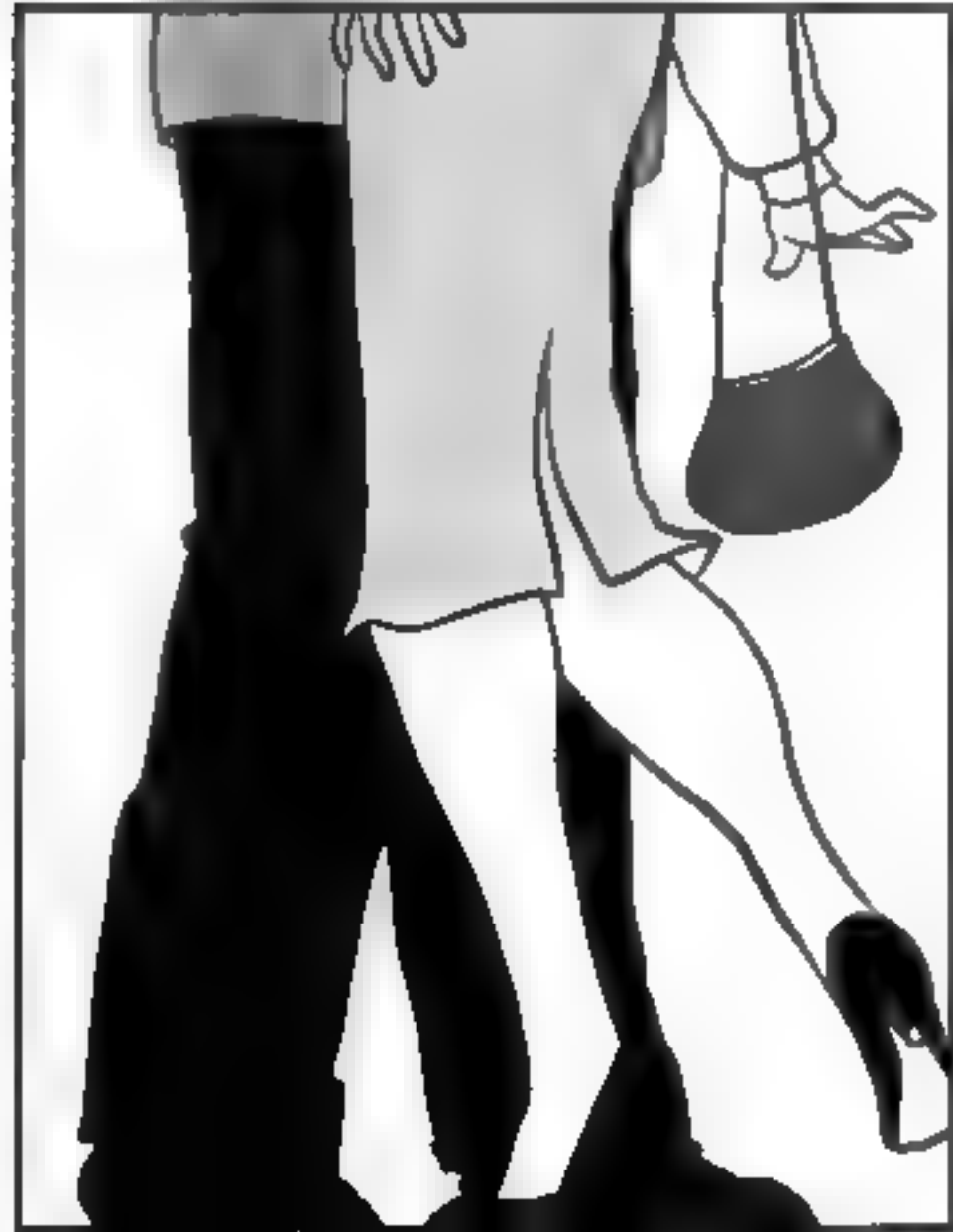












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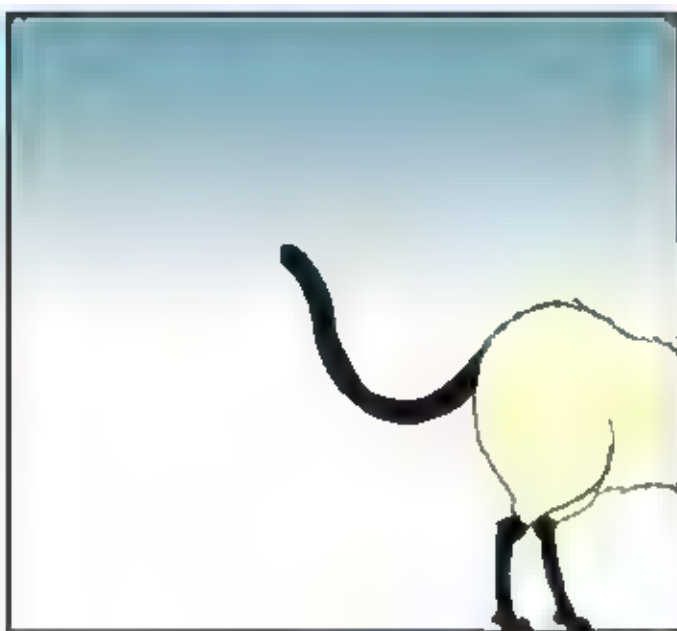
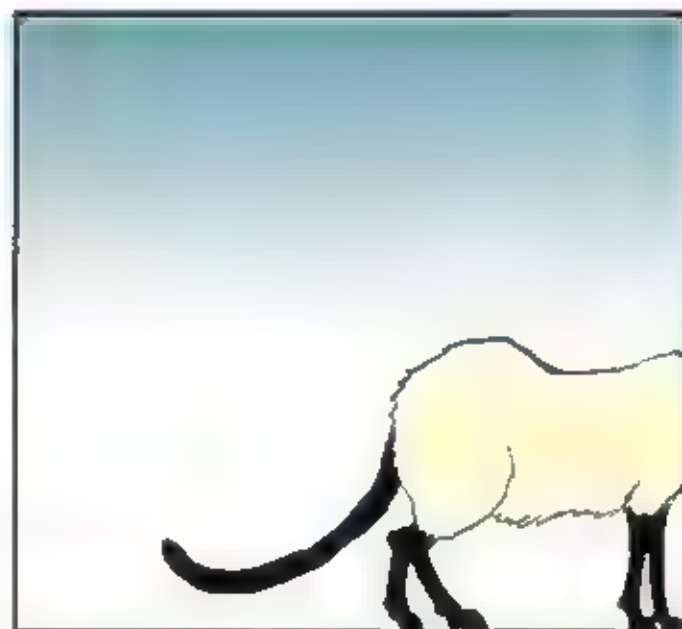
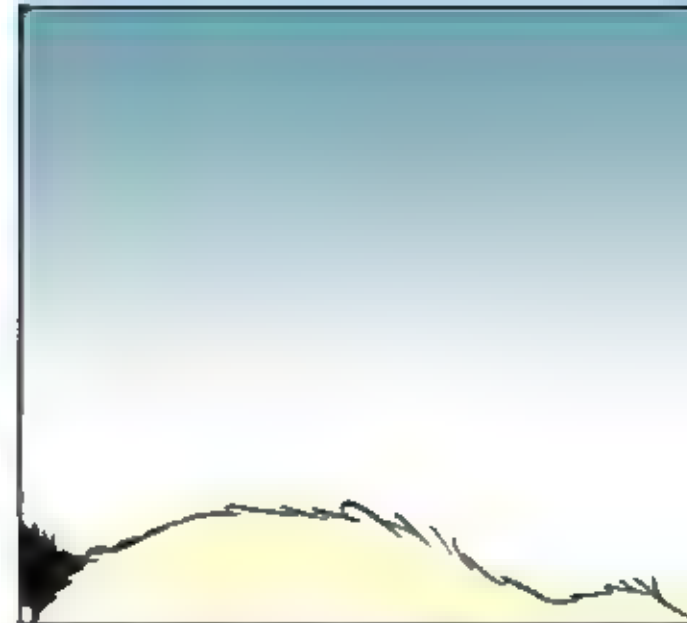








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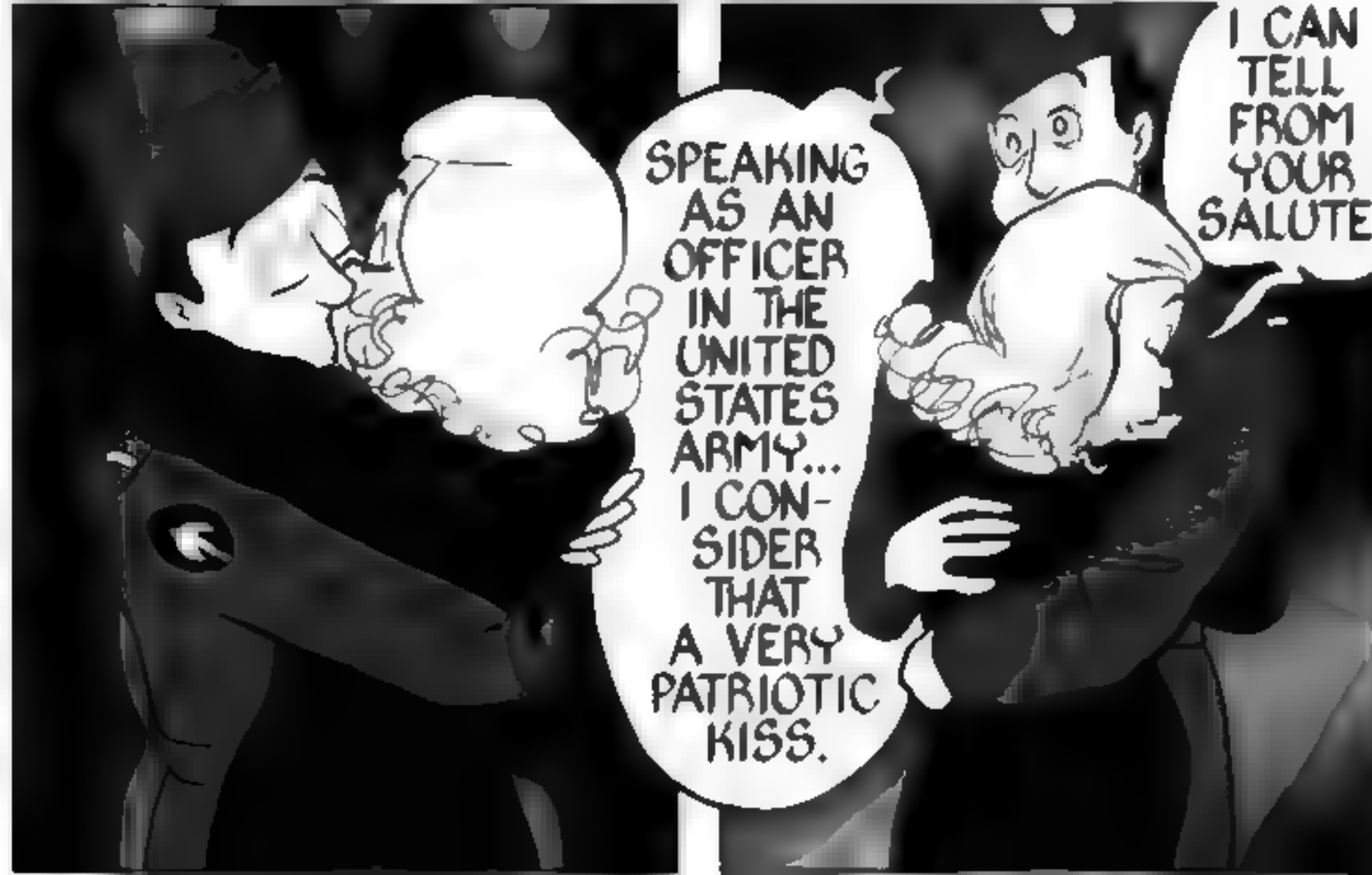


Brooke

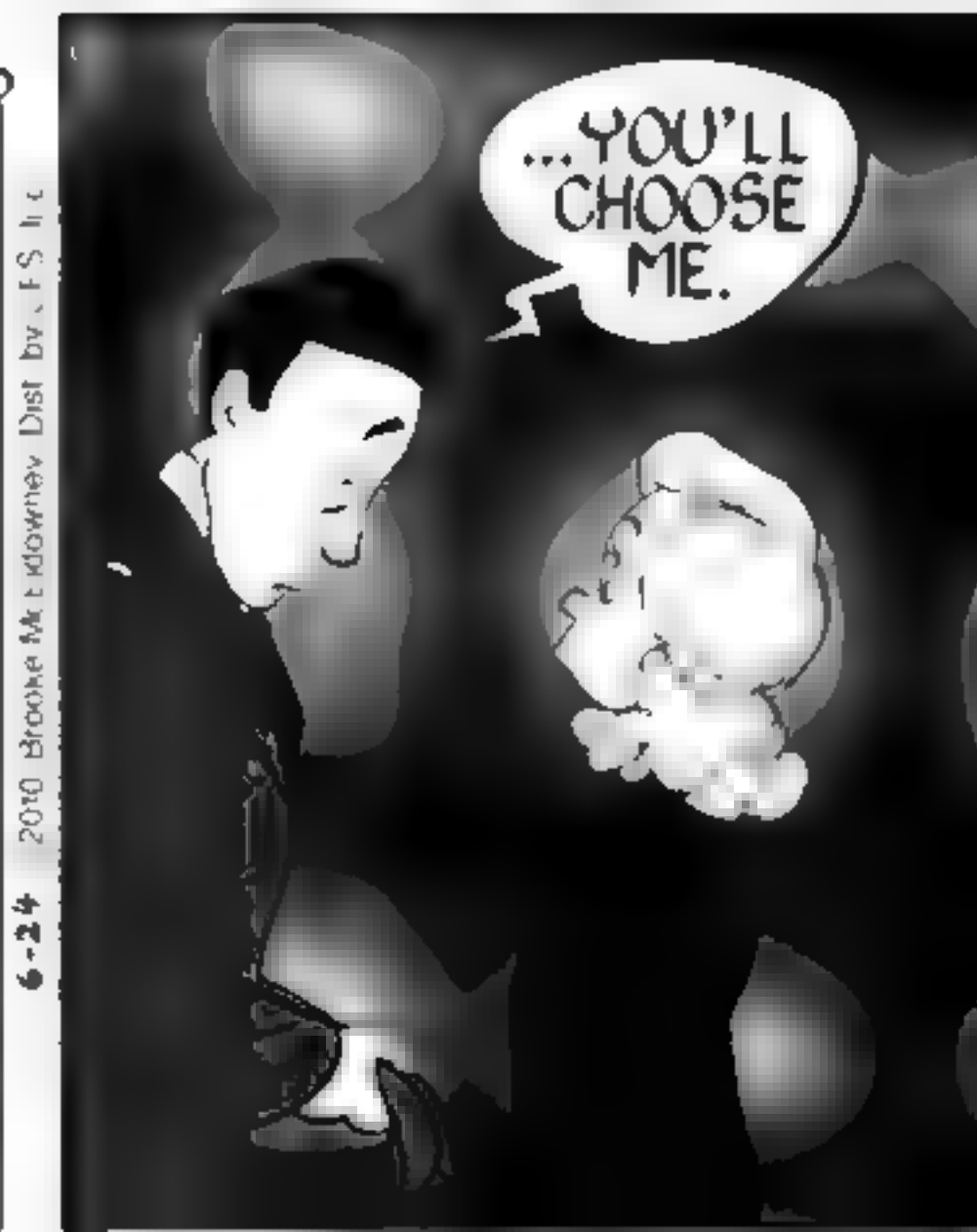
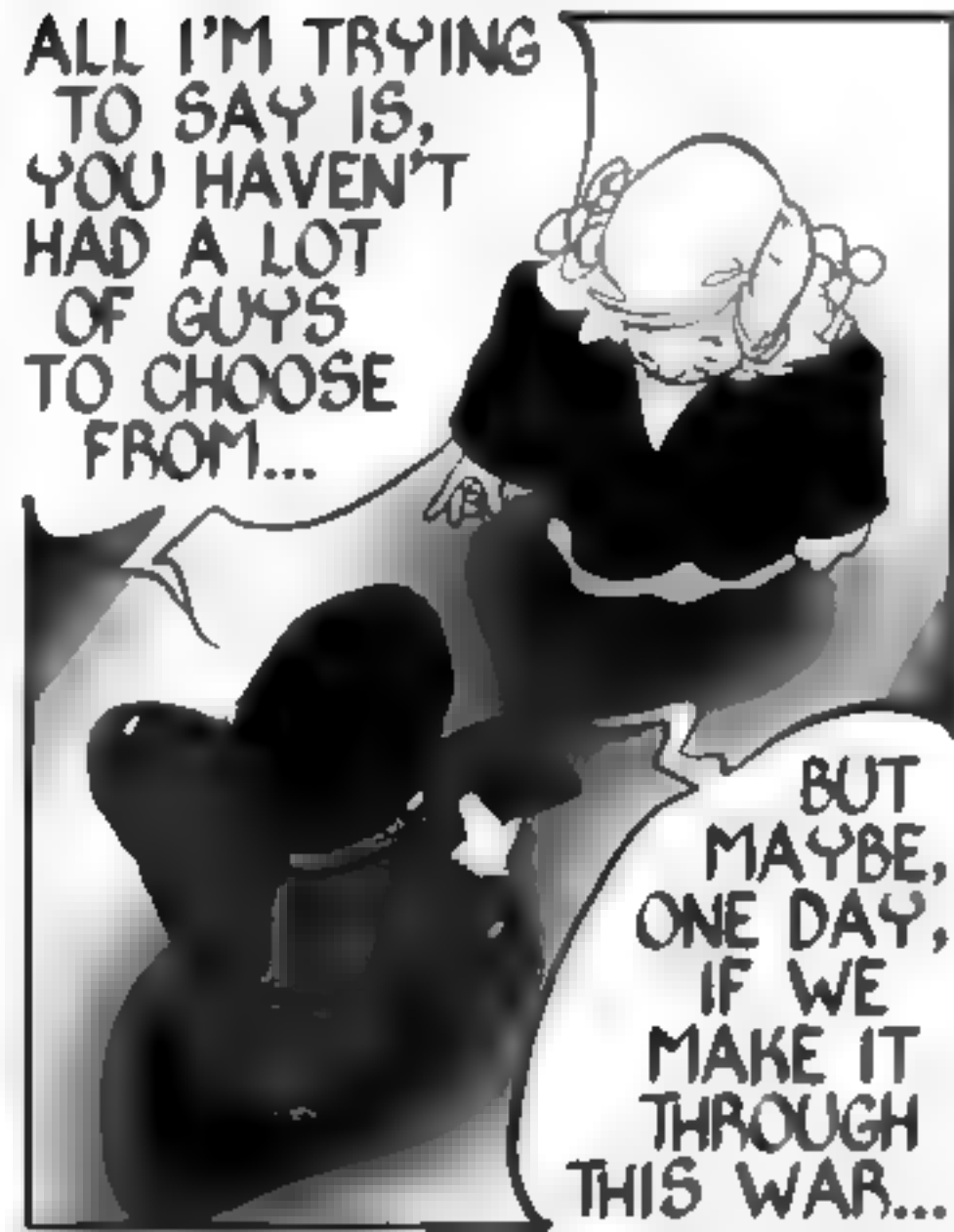














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Brooke



I LOVE YOU...IT'S REALLY  
AS SIMPLE AS THAT.



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REALLY? REALLY...

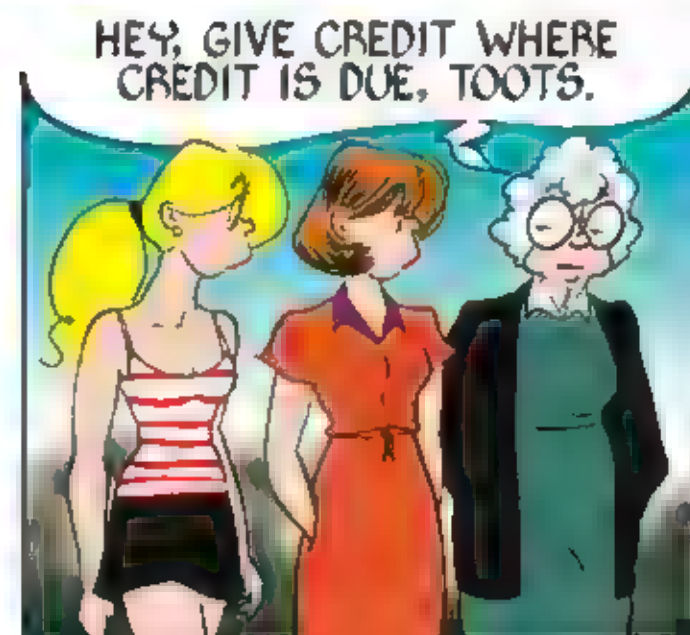
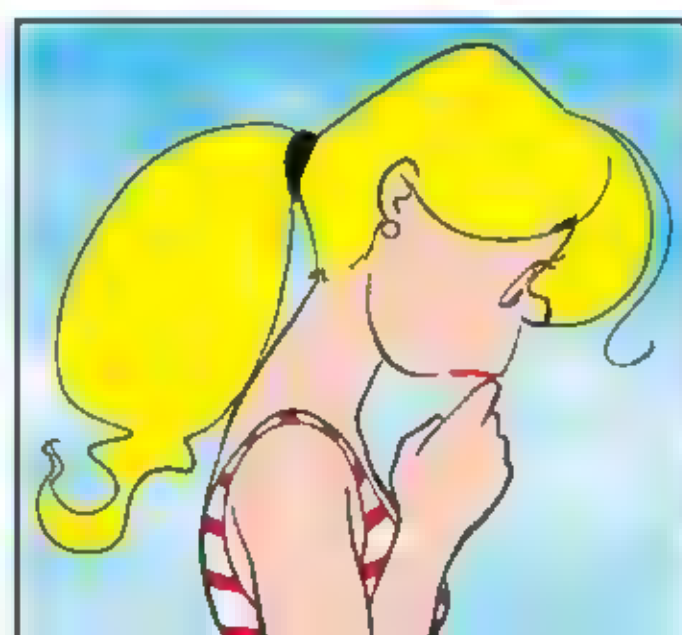
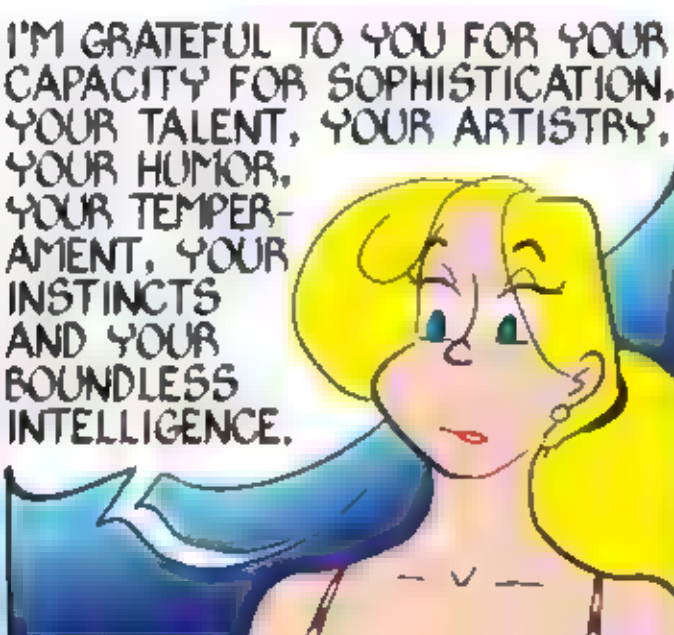
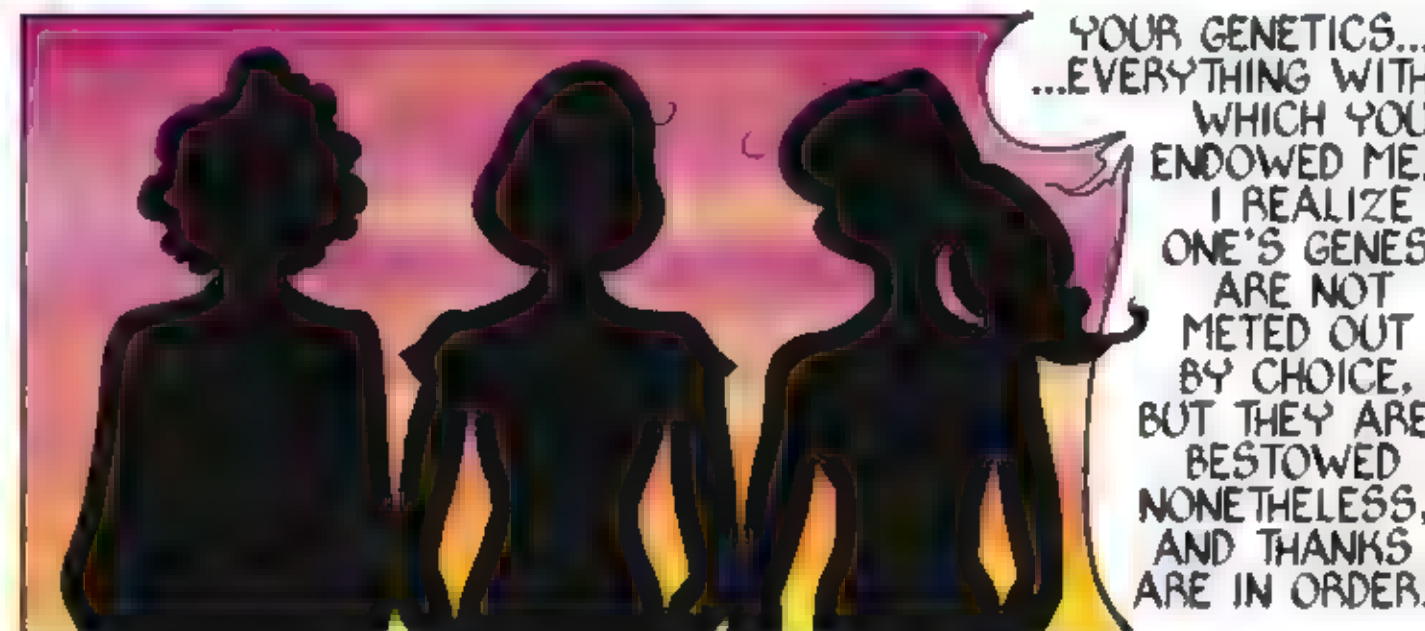
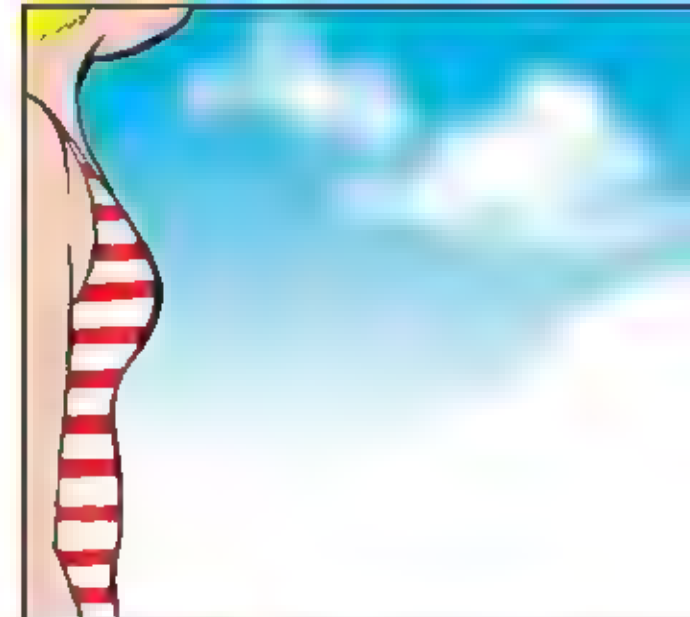


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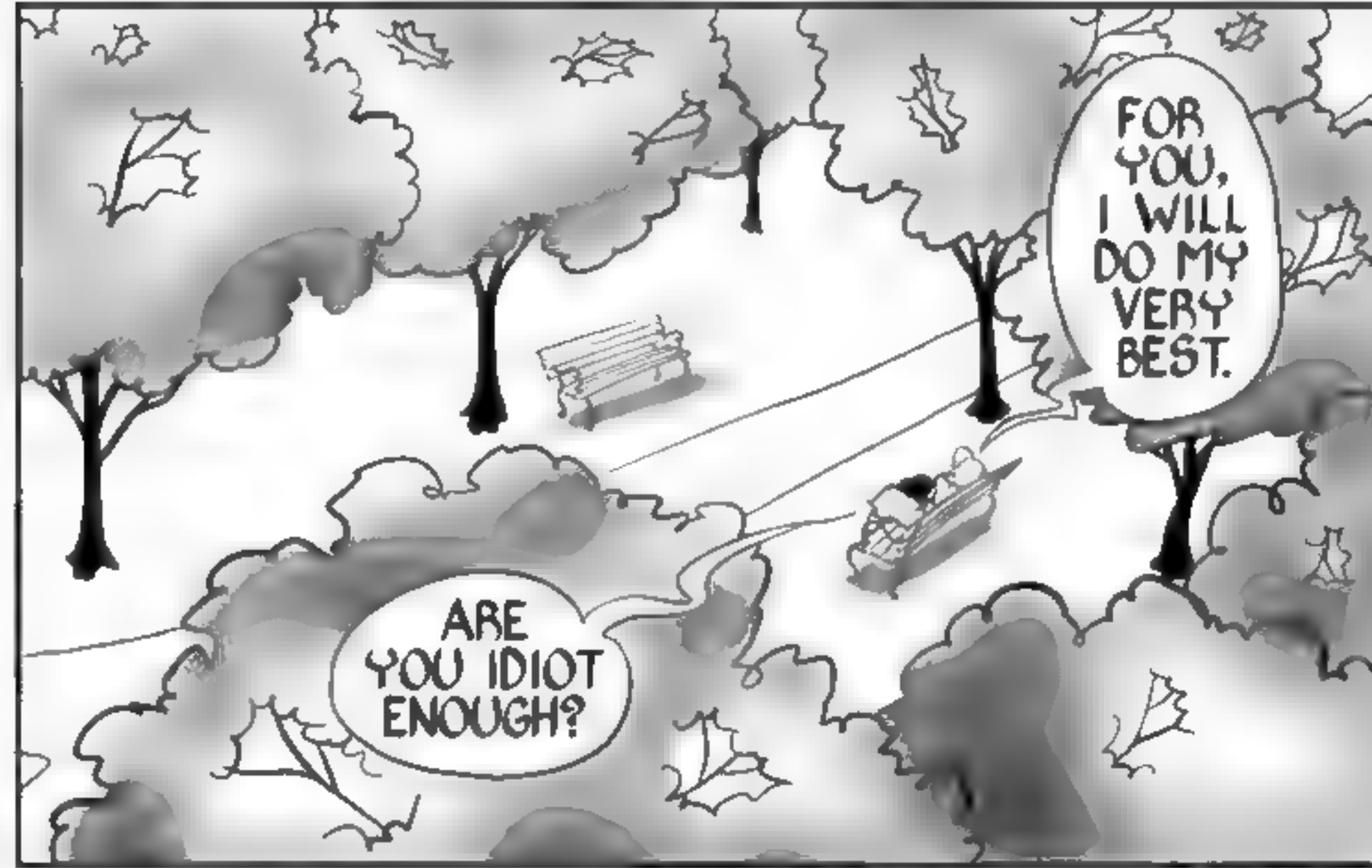
OH,  
BILL.

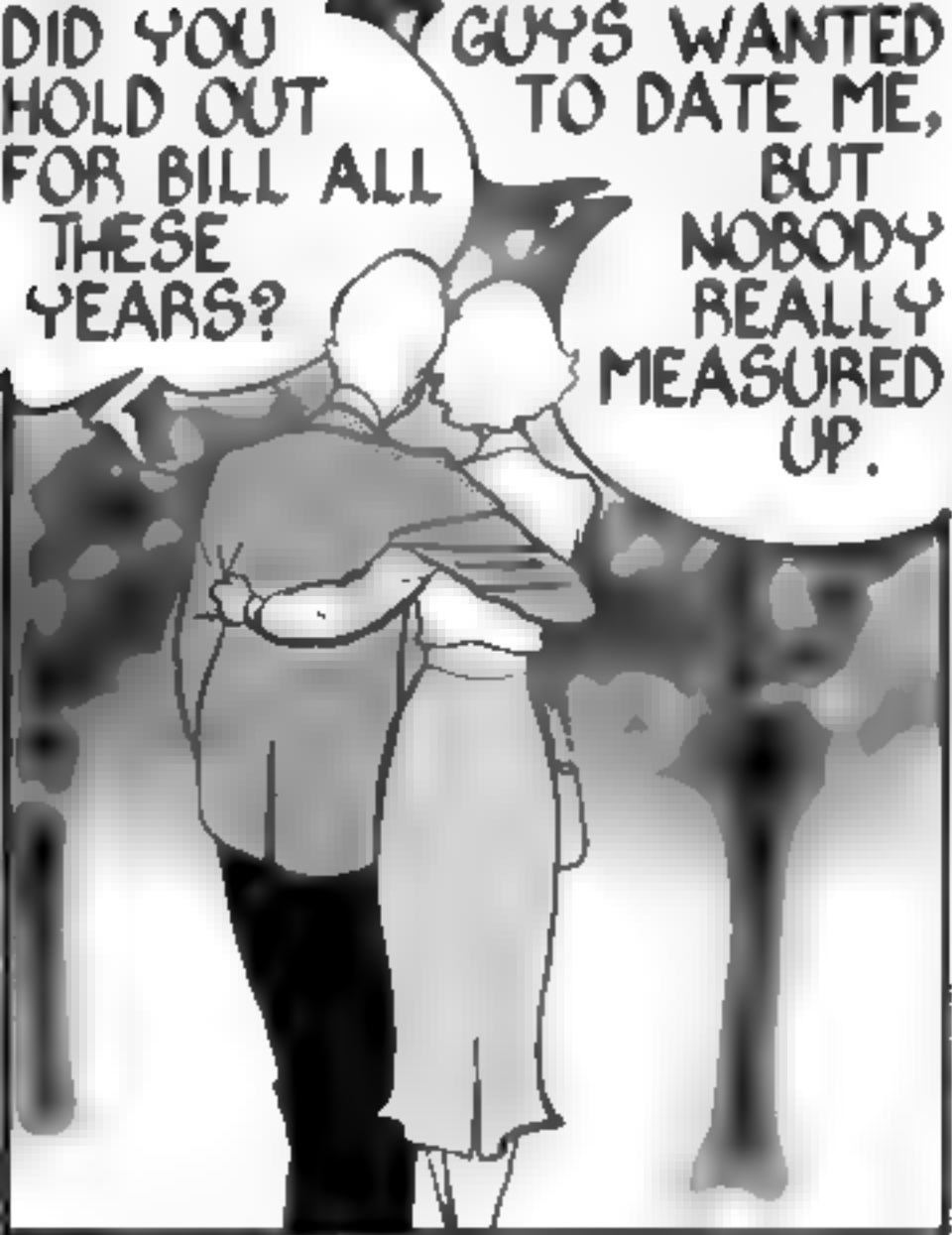


# 9 CHICKWEED LANE









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IN "CASABLANCA," ILSA  
COULDN'T DECIDE BETWEEN  
RICK AND VICTOR, SO SHE  
ASKED RICK TO  
DECIDE FOR HER.

I WISH  
I COULD  
DO THAT.

ASK  
ME TO  
DECIDE?

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Brooke

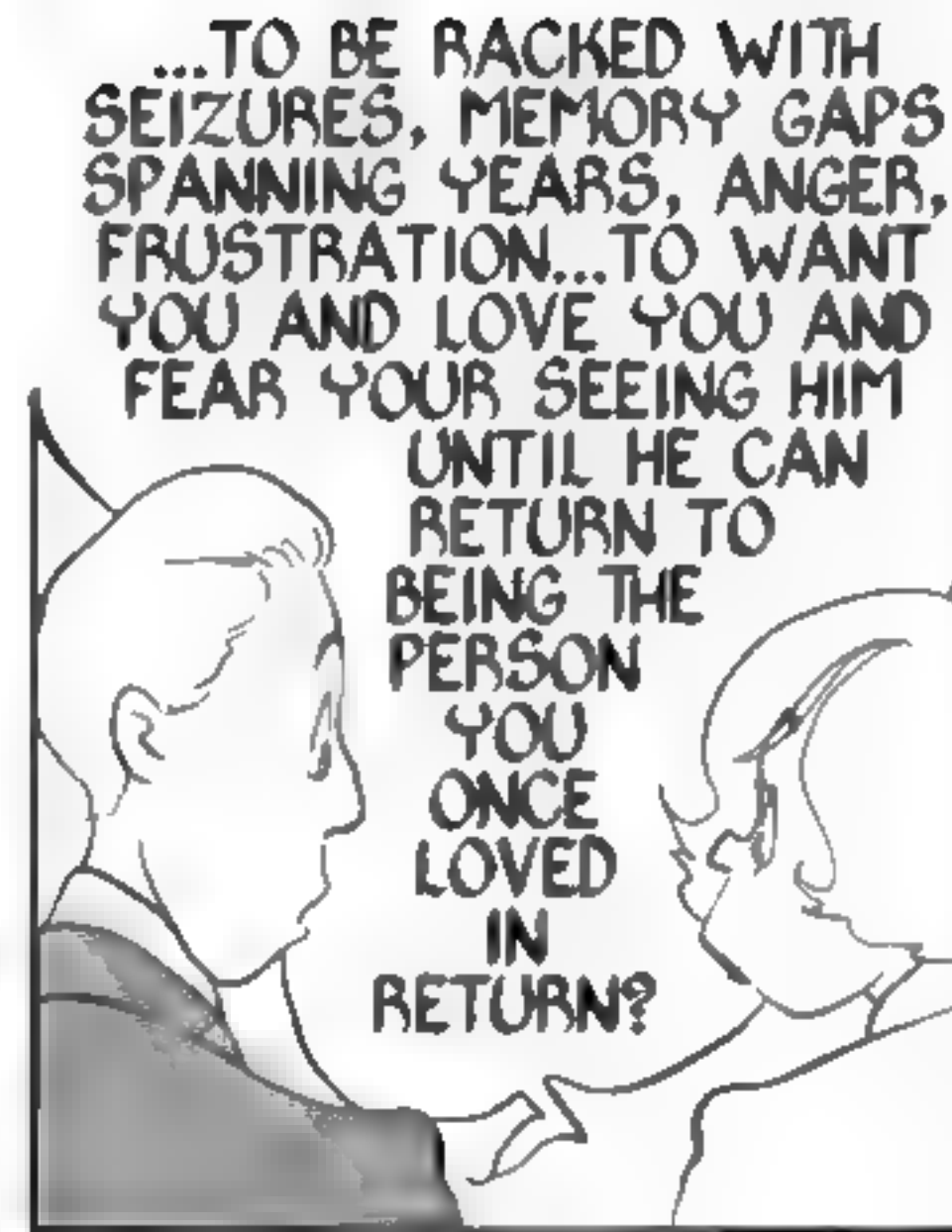
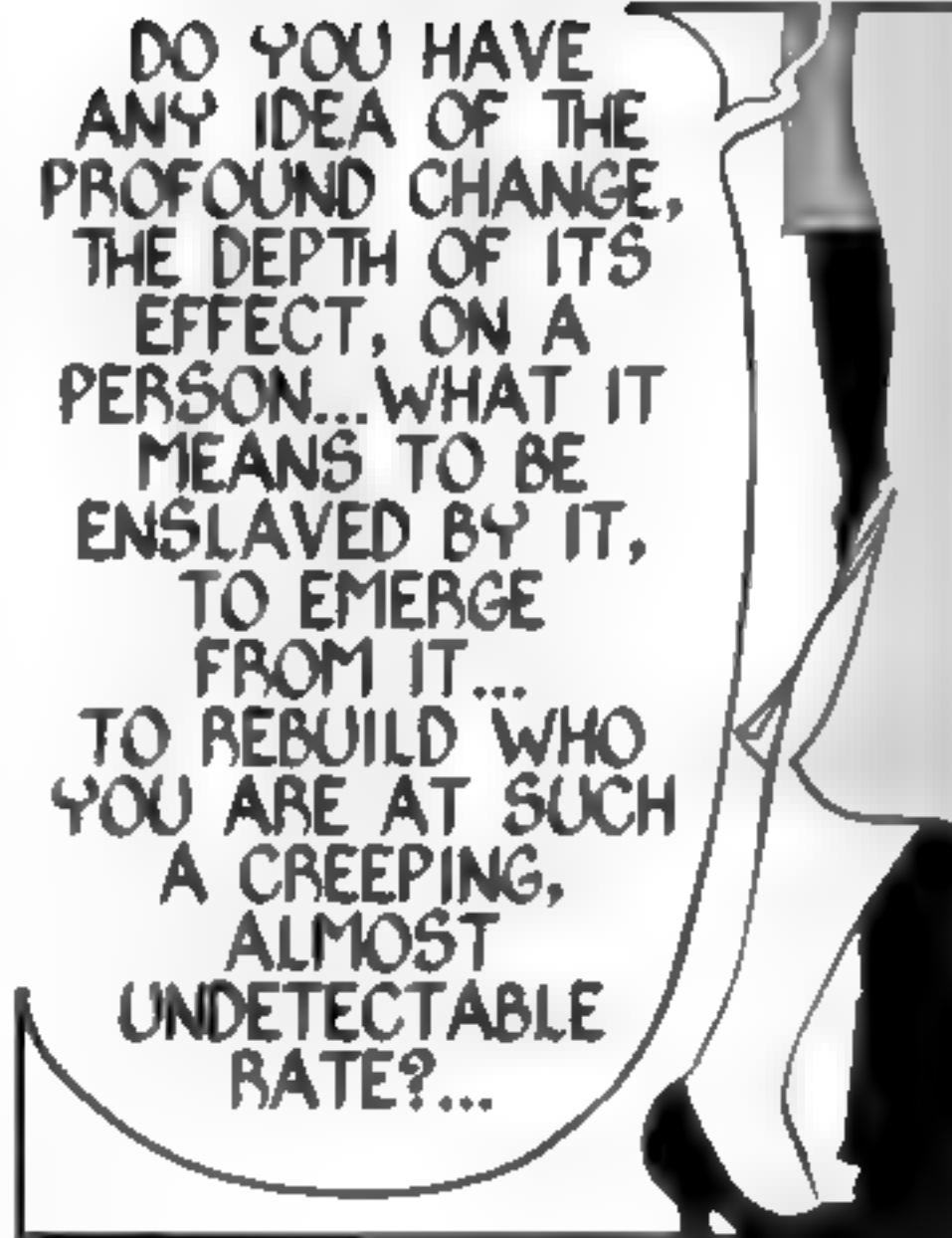
NO...JUST BE  
INGRID BERGMAN.

DO YOU  
THINK THAT  
WOULD MAKE  
LIFE'S TRAGEDIES  
ANY LIGHTER?

ARE YOU  
KIDDING?  
OF COURSE  
IT WOULD.

DID I EVER TELL YOU  
THAT I'M DISTANTLY  
RELATED TO PAUL  
HENREID?

I THINK  
I'M GOING  
TO SCREAM.

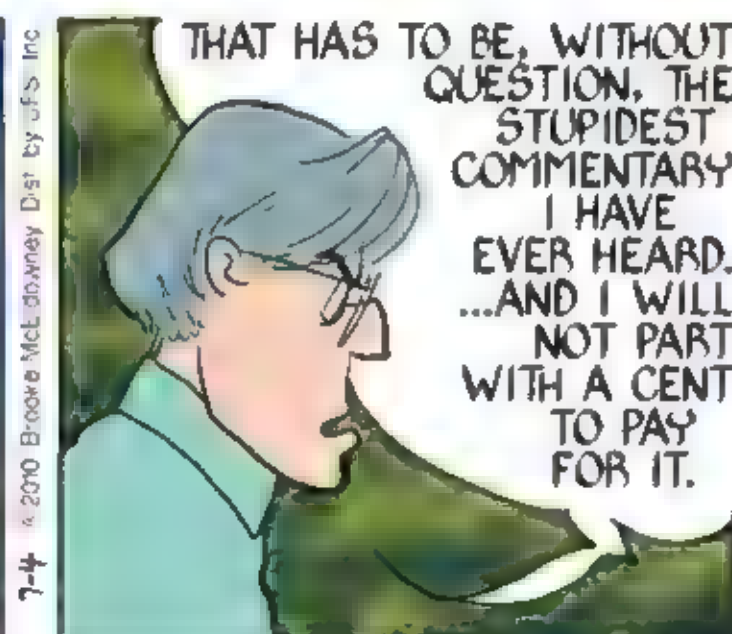
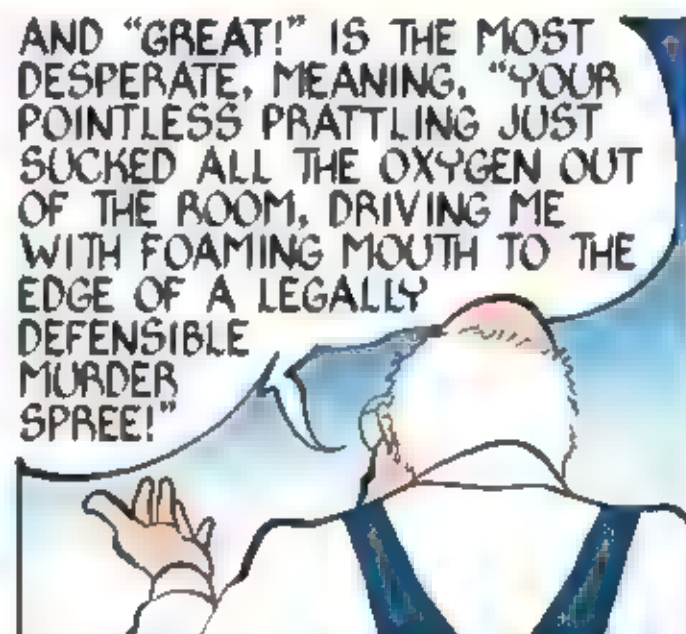
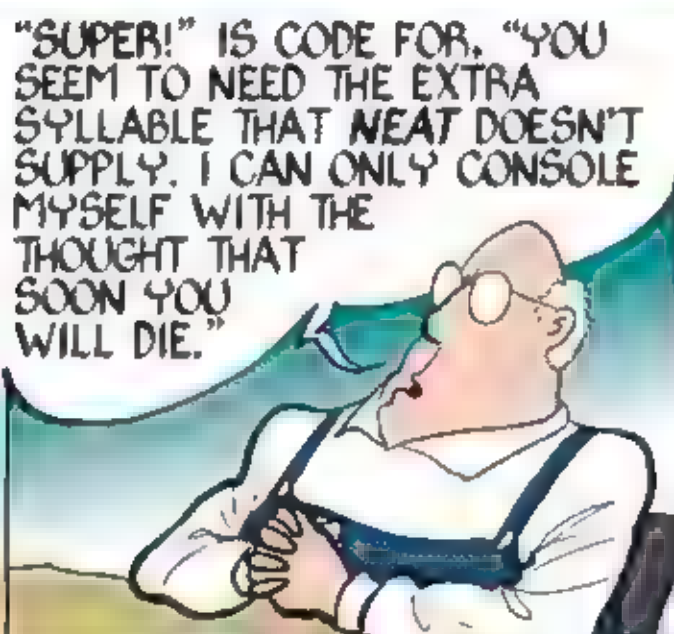
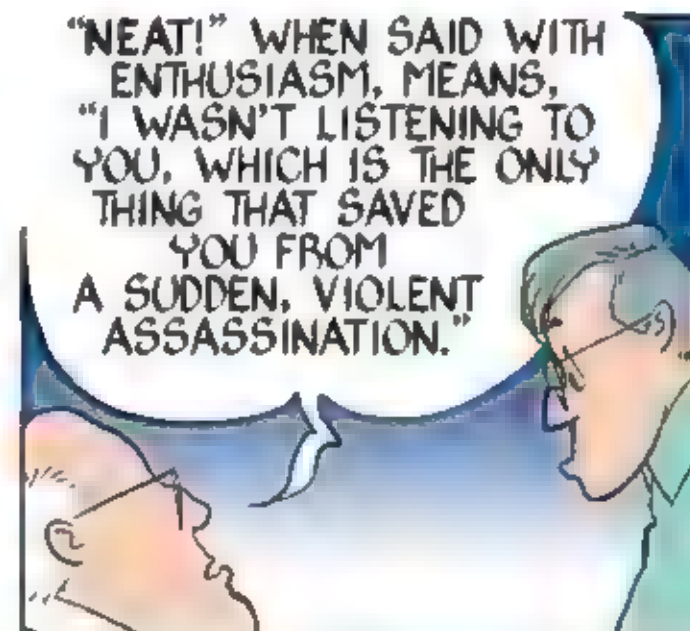
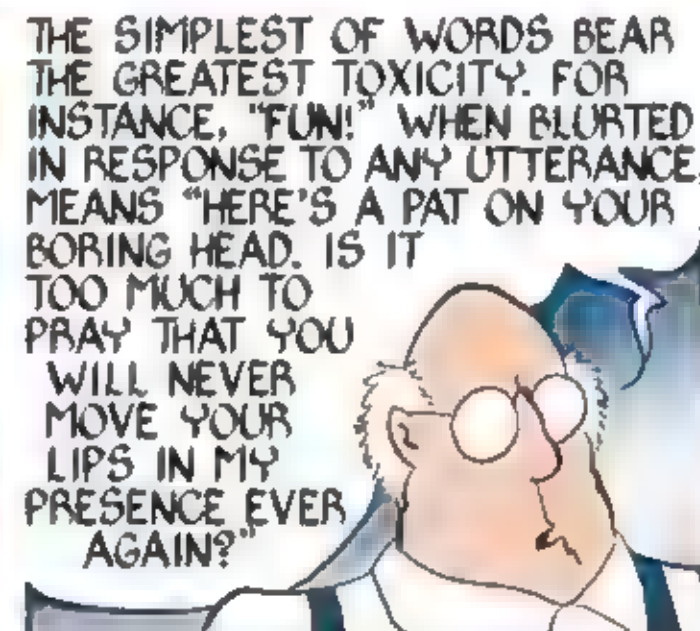
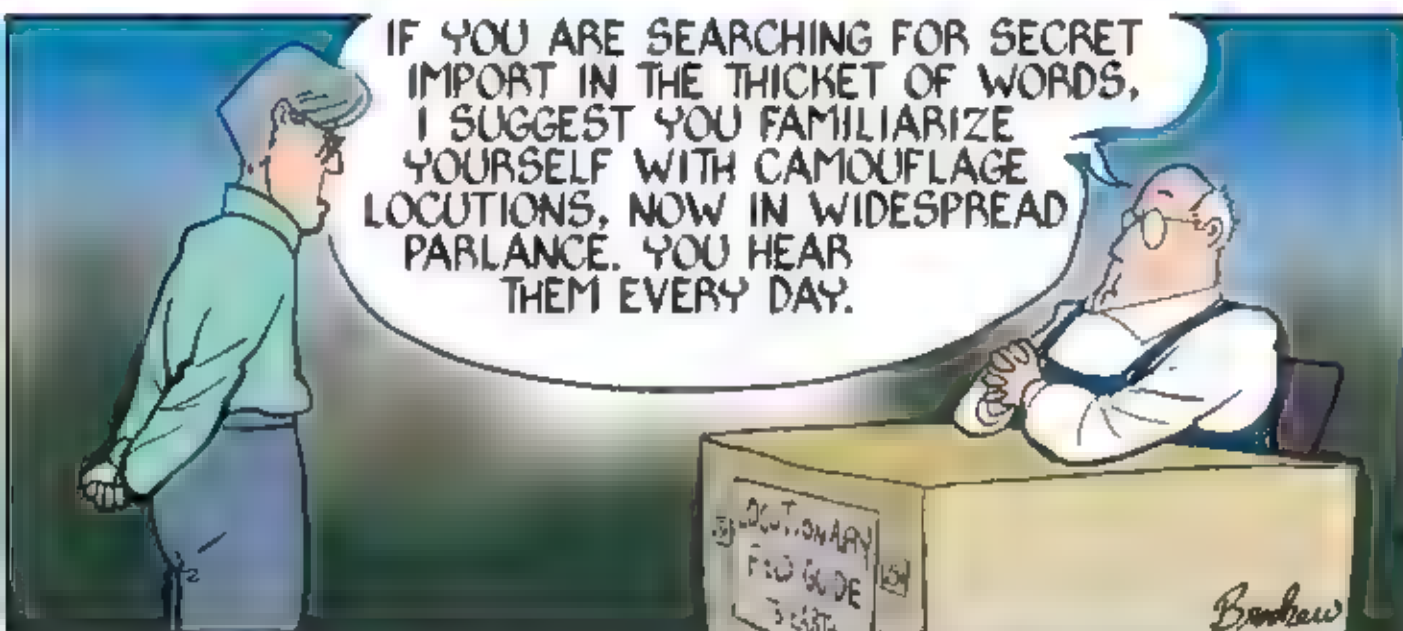
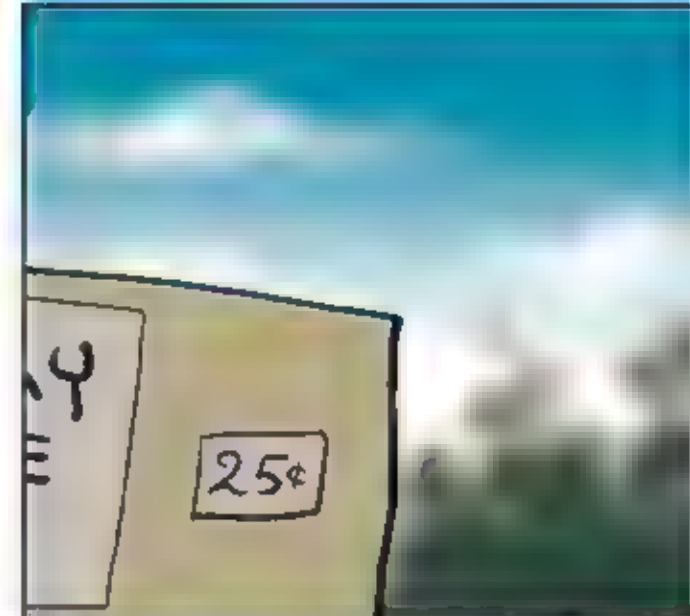


















BUT BEFORE YOU GO TO VISIT BILL, LET'S SPEND A LAST DAY TOGETHER, AND A LAST NIGHT.



WHY DO YOU CALL IT "LAST"?

Brookew

ONLY BECAUSE YOU WILL CERTAINLY BE DELAYED, AND I WILL HAVE TO RETURN TO VIENNA AHEAD OF YOU. ONCE YOU HAVE FINISHED, COME TO VIENNA AND I WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU.



IT MAKES SENSE. WHEN YOU ARRIVE, I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING READY TO RECEIVE YOU, AND WE WILL MARRY.



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BUT BEFORE THEN, A LAST DAY TOGETHER. AND A LAST NIGHT.





A LAST DAY?  
IT SOUNDS  
SO FINAL.

WE HAD OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE,  
ALTHOUGH HOW MUCH WE BOTH BELIEVED IN  
THEM WE NEVER CONFIDED. ALL I REMEMBER  
IS THAT I ROSE WITH THE SUN, AND NEVER  
DID I GO TO SO MUCH TROUBLE  
TO LOOK SO GOOD OR SMELL  
SO GOOD OR KISS SO WELL.  
A POLICEMAN TOLD US TO  
BREAK IT UP, WE WERE  
CREATING A PUBLIC  
NUISANCE.



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7-8

"THAT'S HOW GOOD  
MY FIRST KISS WAS."







THAT DAY, KIESL AND I  
RODE OUT TO FAR ROCKAWAY  
AND WENT TO THE BEACH.  
HE TOOK A PHOTO OF  
ME IN WHAT I CONSIDERED  
MY VERY SAUCIEST  
BATHING SUIT, WHILE  
I BLEW HIM  
A KISS.

Braden

"SOMEWHERE  
IN VIENNA  
THOSE NEGATIVES  
WERE DEVELOPED."

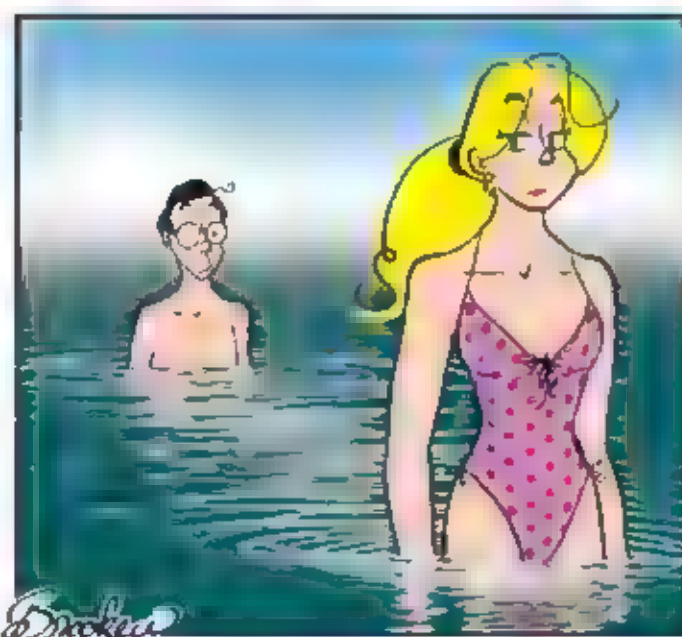
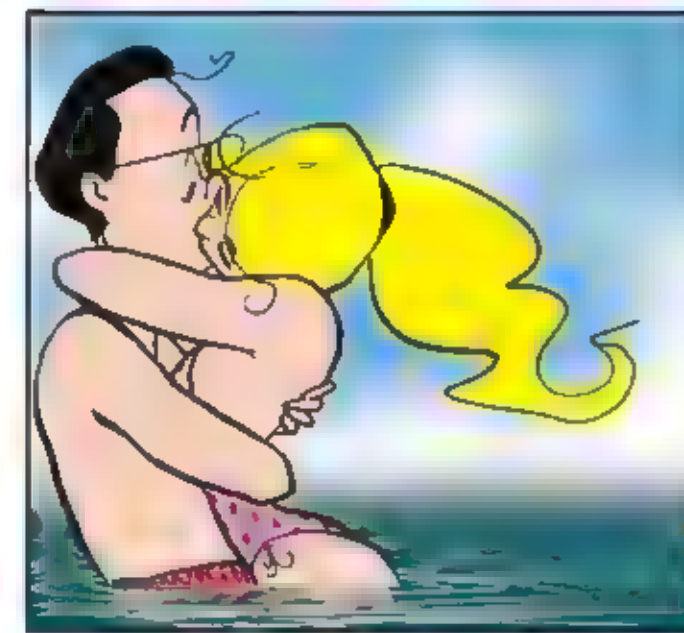
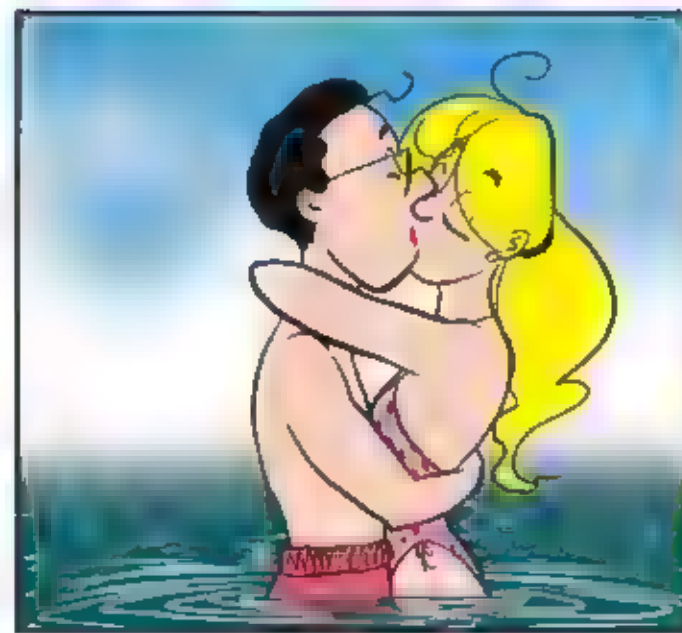
# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

®

THE THING SO FEW PEOPLE  
REALIZE IS THAT THE MUCH  
VAUNTED DISPARITY BETWEEN  
THE SEXES IS REALLY  
A FICTION. SUBJECTED  
TO THE SAME  
STIMULUS,  
WE THINK THE  
SAME, FEEL  
THE SAME,  
RESPOND  
THE SAME.

I'M GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE  
STROLL ON THE  
BEACH.  
WANT TO  
...COME?

UM...NO, I THINK I'LL  
JUST WADE OUT HERE.





"KIESL WASTED A WHOLE  
ROLL OF FILM ON ME AT  
THAT BEACH.



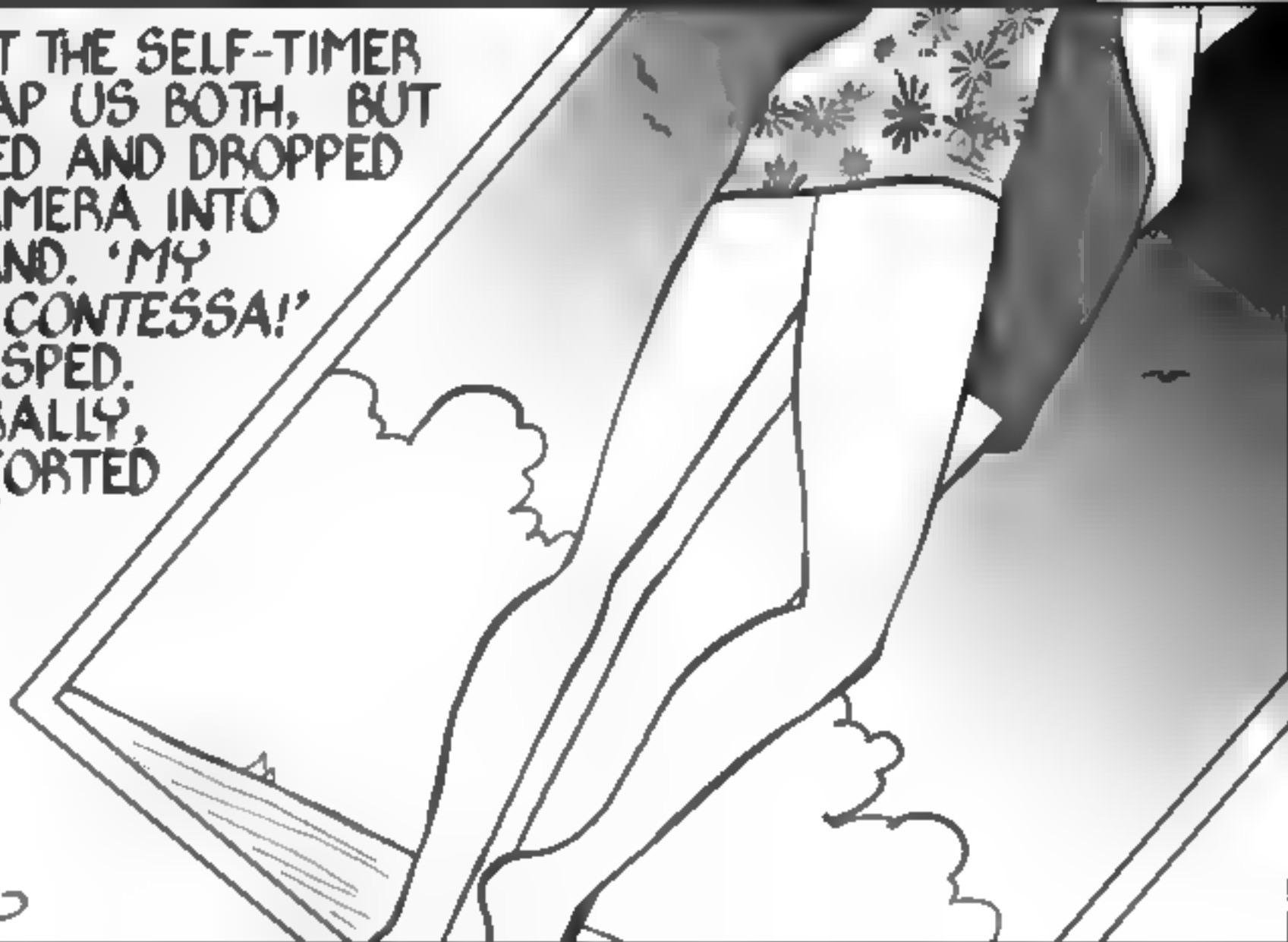
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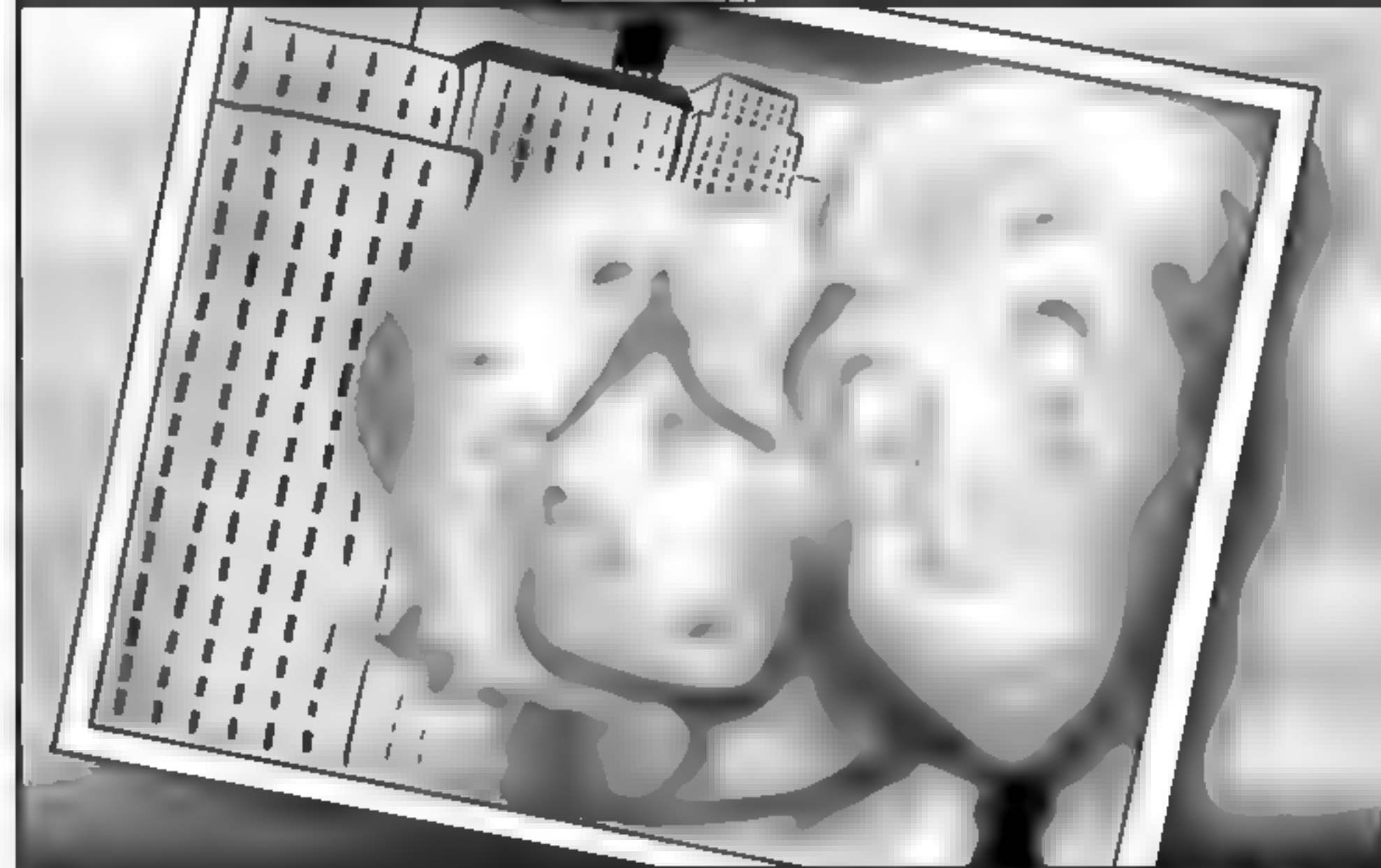
"I STRUCK POSES THAT,  
I HOPED, WOULD PUT  
JANE RUSSELL  
TO SHAME.



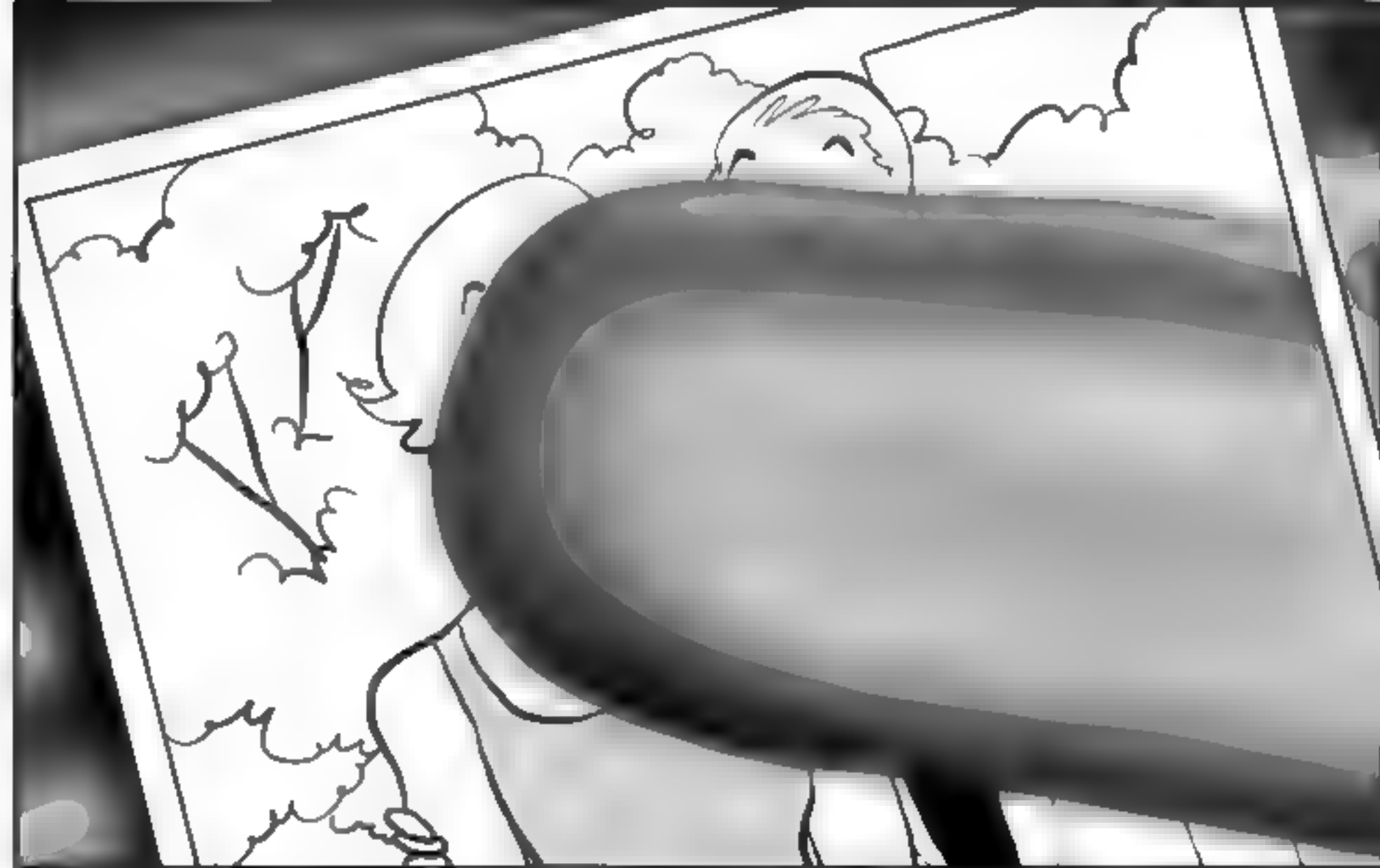
"HE SET THE SELF-TIMER  
TO SNAP US BOTH, BUT  
FUMBLING AND DROPPED  
THE CAMERA INTO  
THE SAND. 'MY  
ZEISS CONTESSA!'  
HE GASPED.  
NATURALLY,  
I COMFORTED  
HIM."

Brooke









"THAT AFTERNOON,  
WE STOPPED BY A  
HAT SHOP.



"ONE THING ABOUT  
KIESL THAT NEVER FAILED  
TO CHARM ME...



"...WAS HIS UNSHAKABLE  
FAITH...

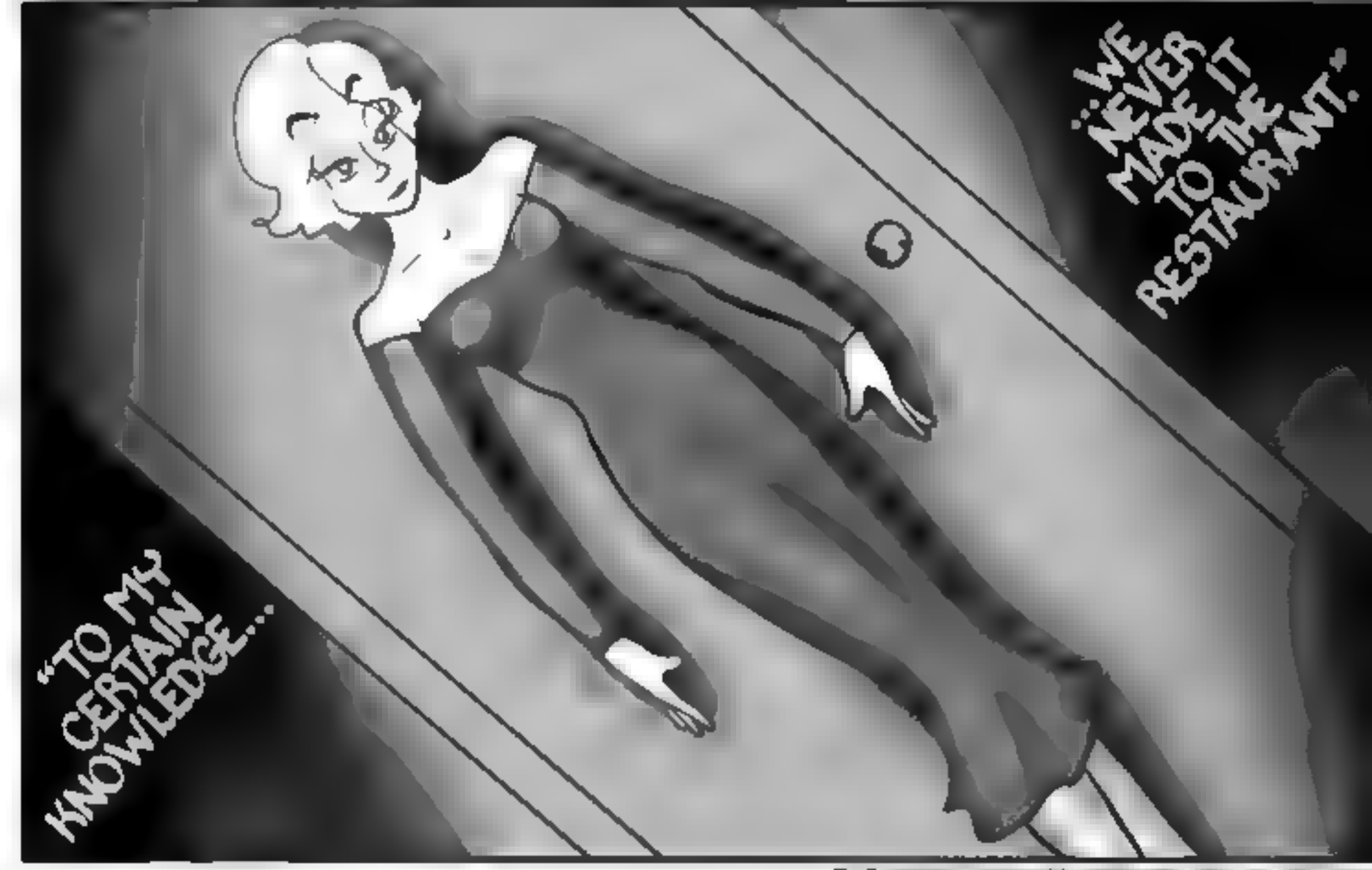


"...IN HIS SENSE OF  
STYLE."





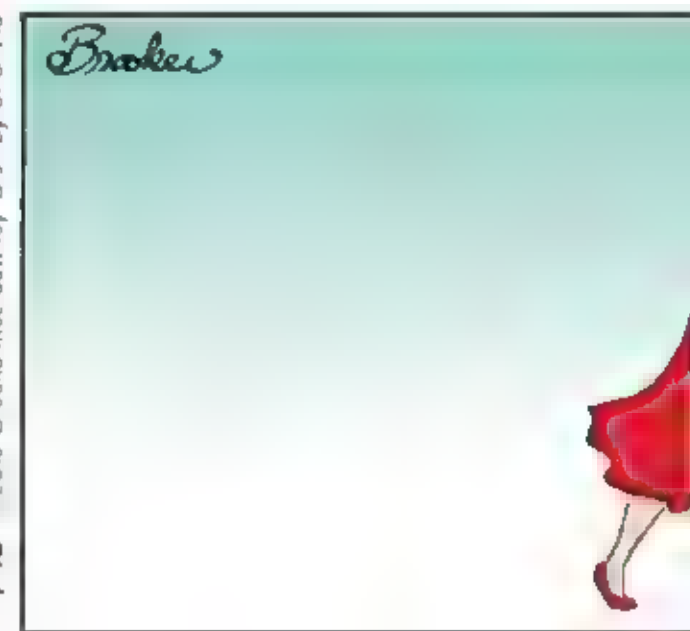
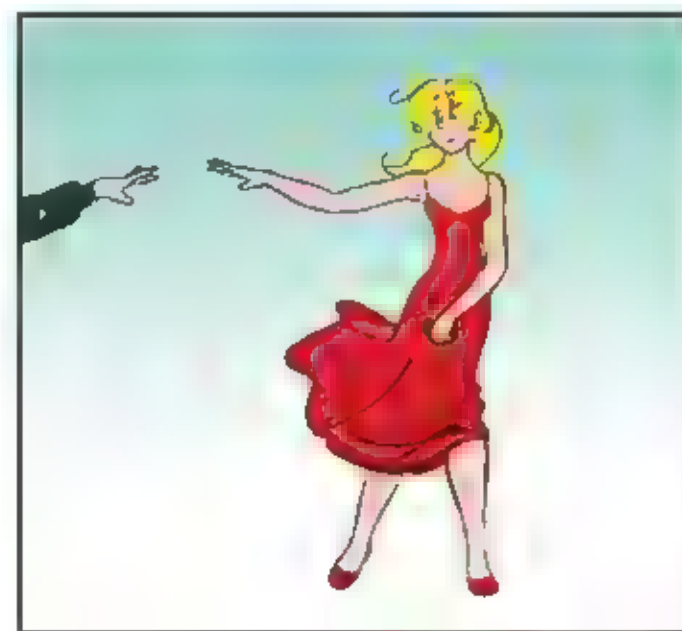
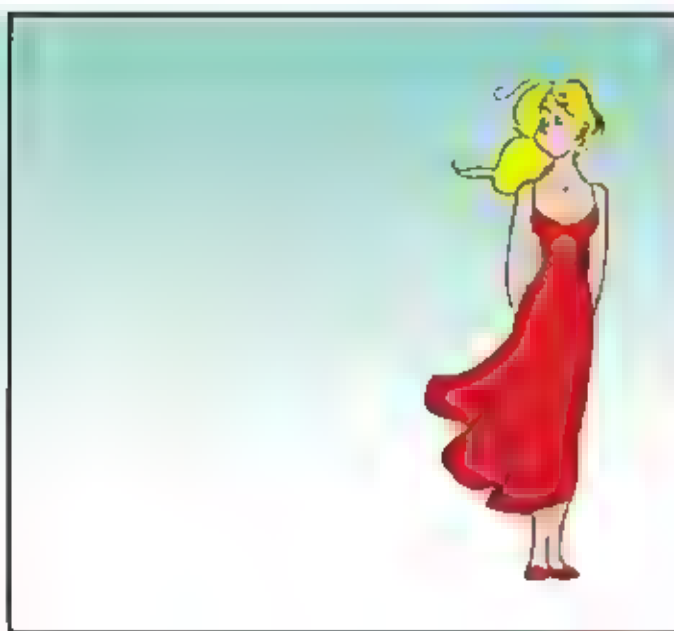
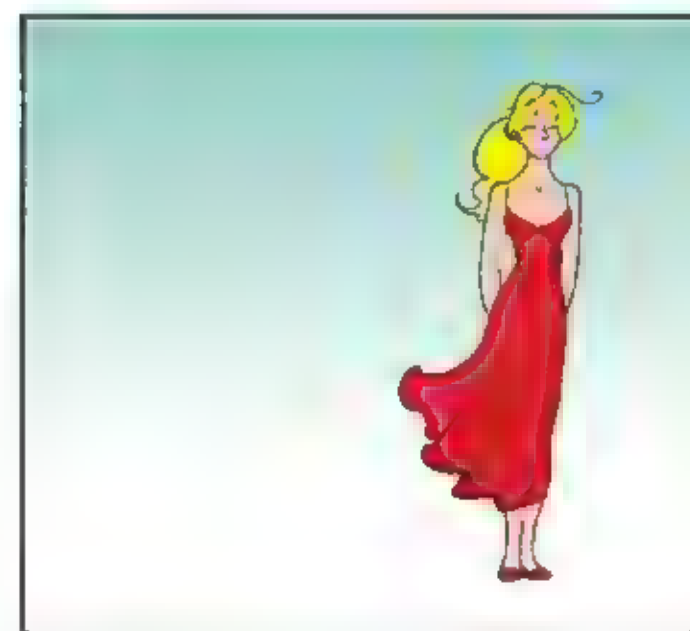
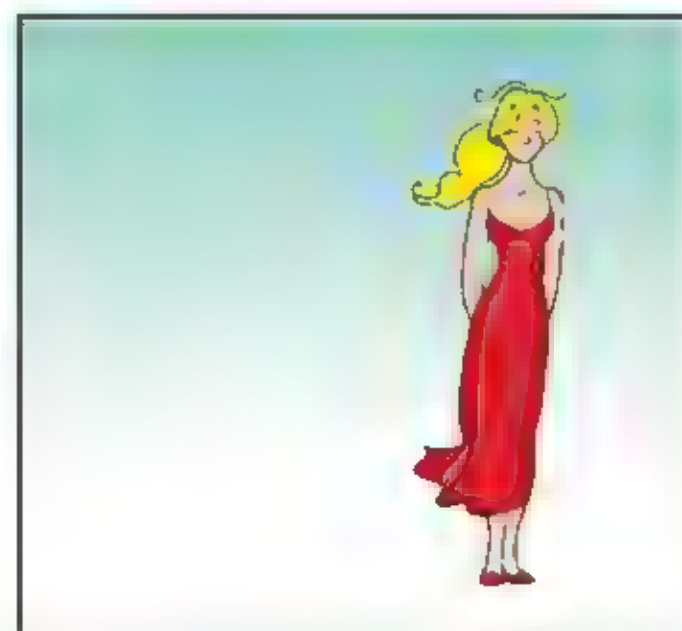
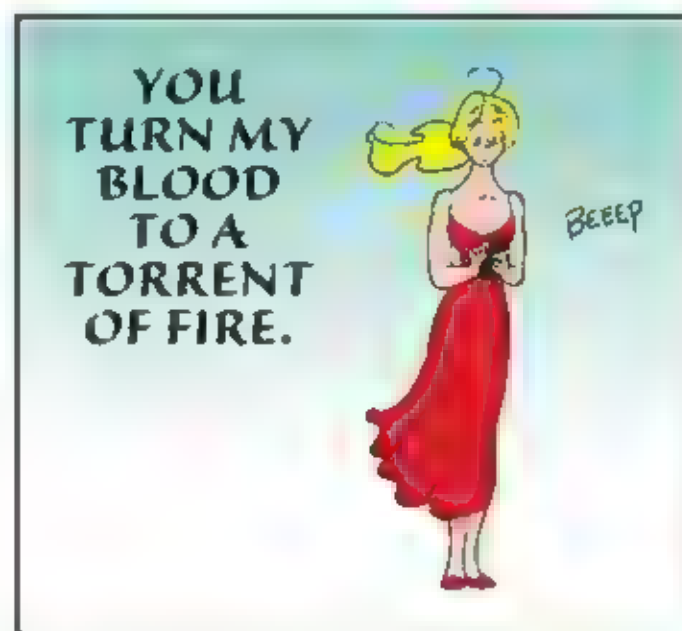
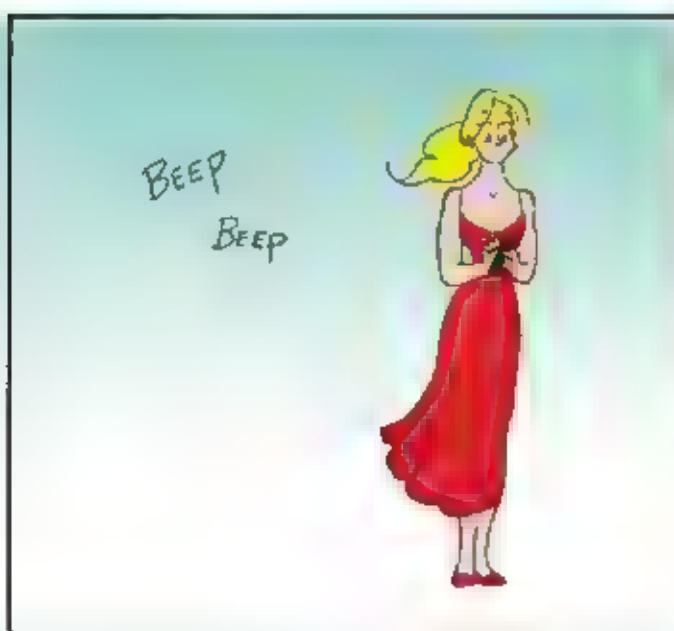
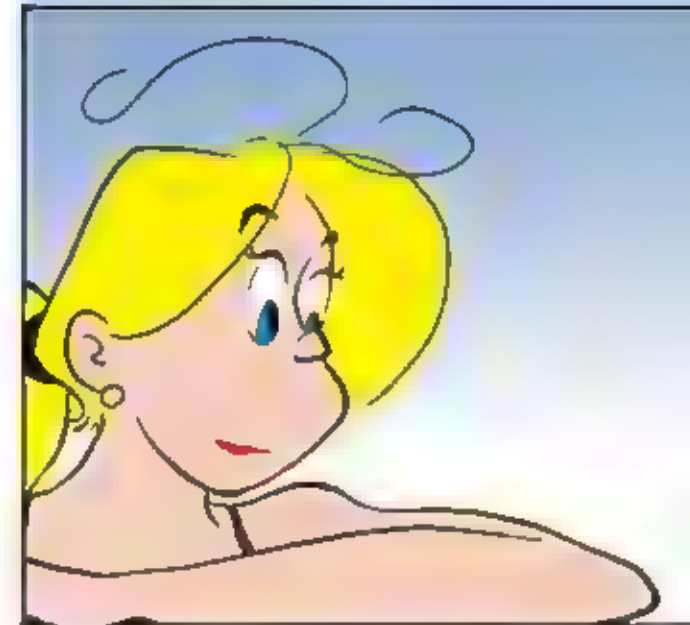


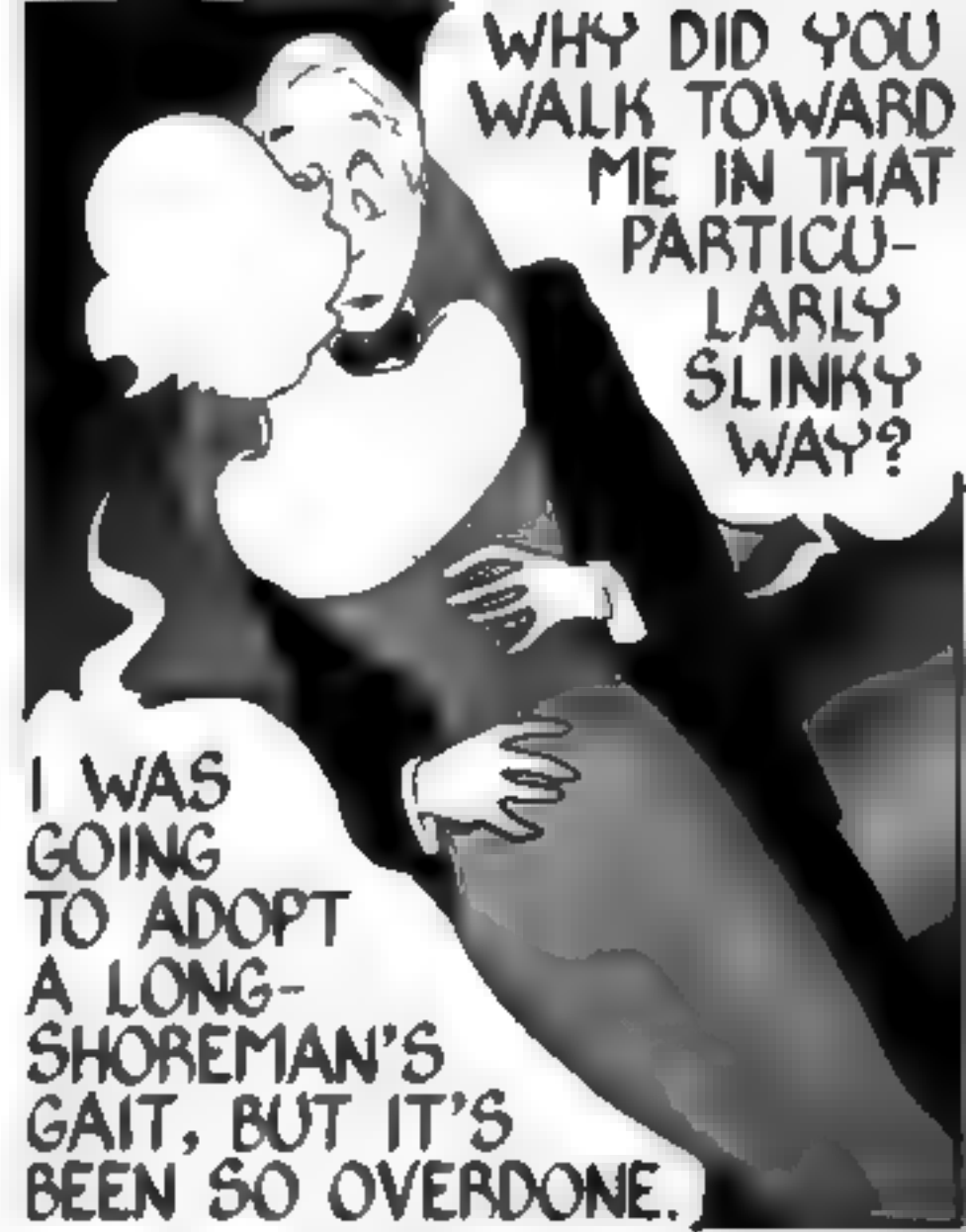
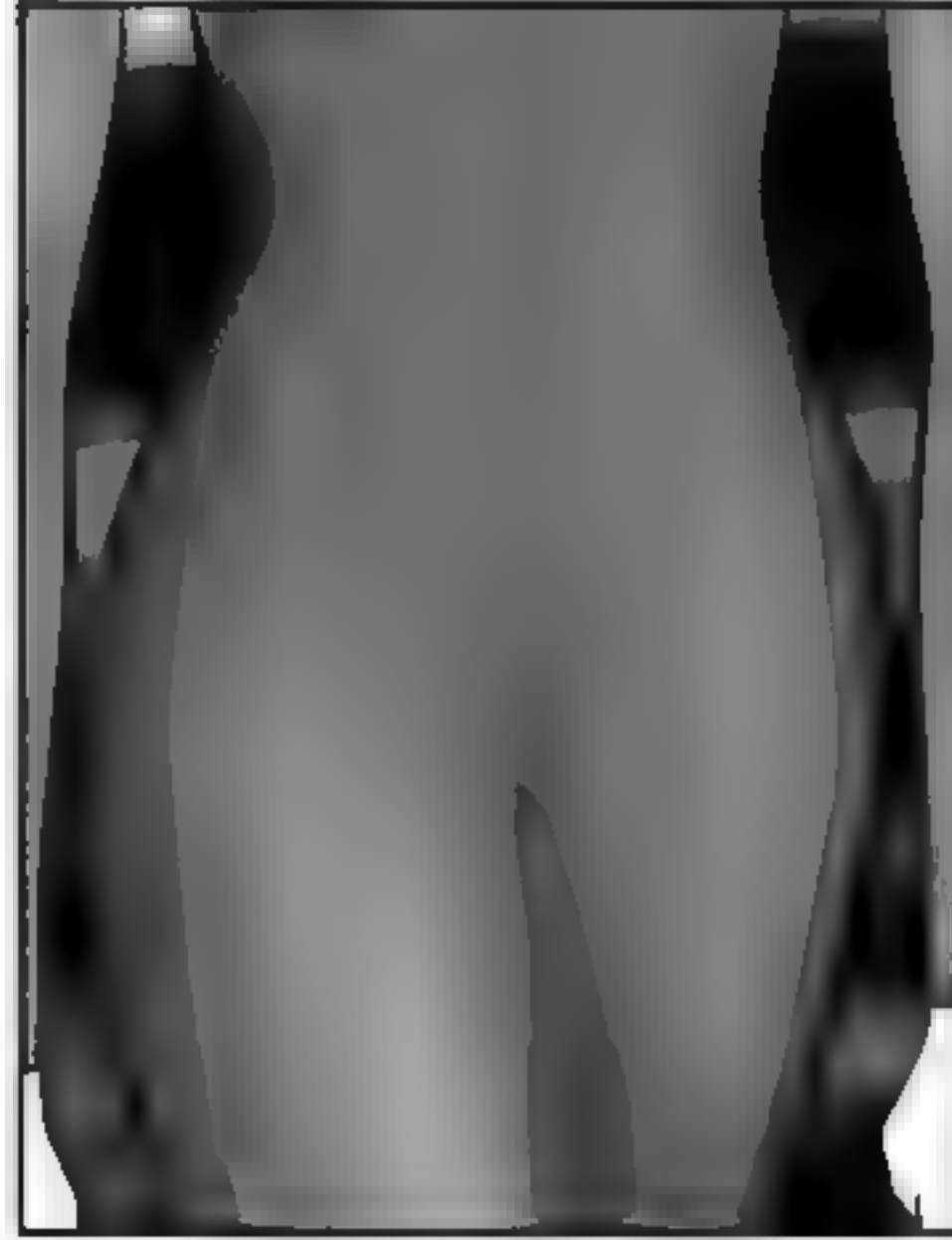




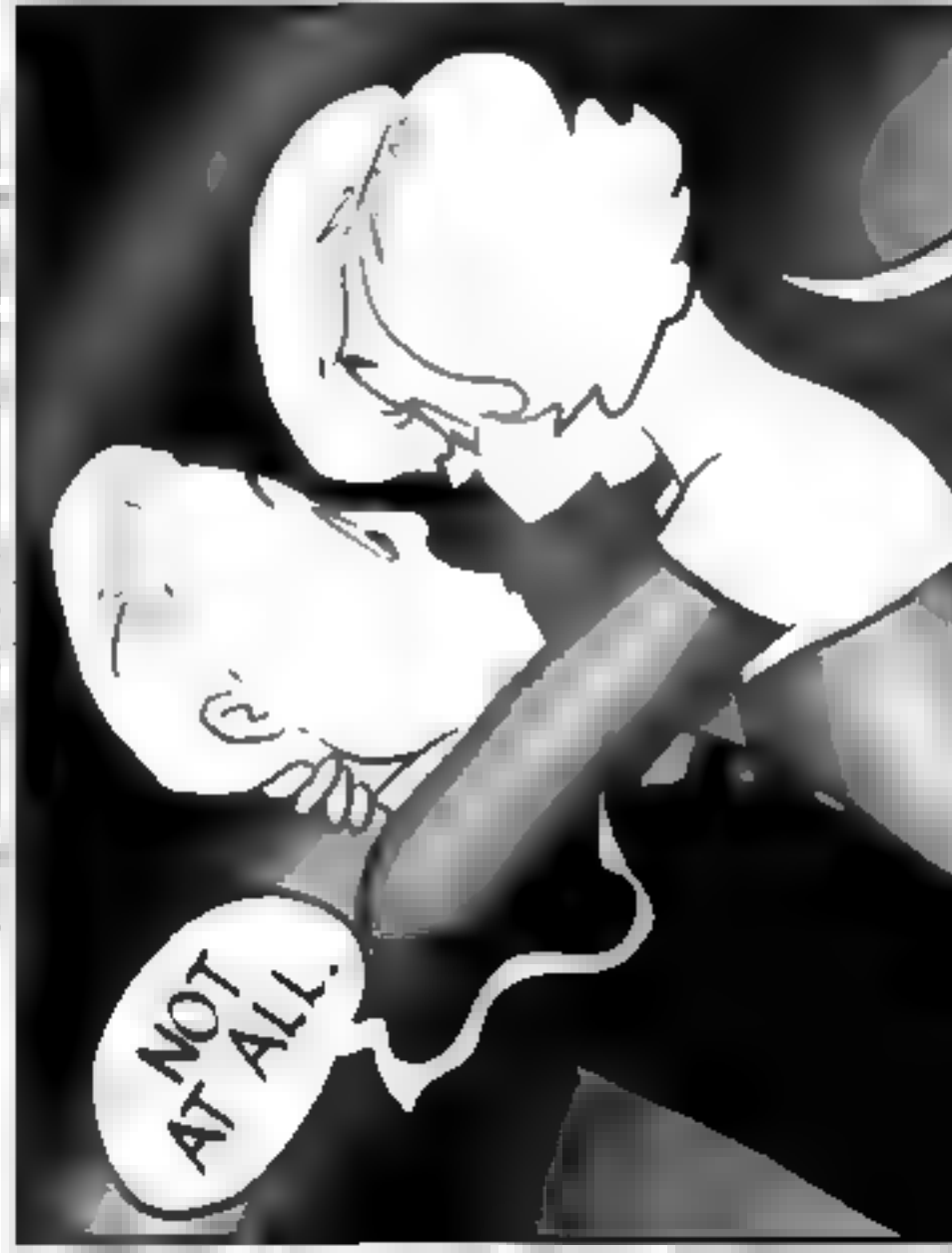


IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR  
WHEN A YOUNG GIRL TURNS  
TO THOUGHTS OF TEXTING  
THAT SHE'S IN LOVE.













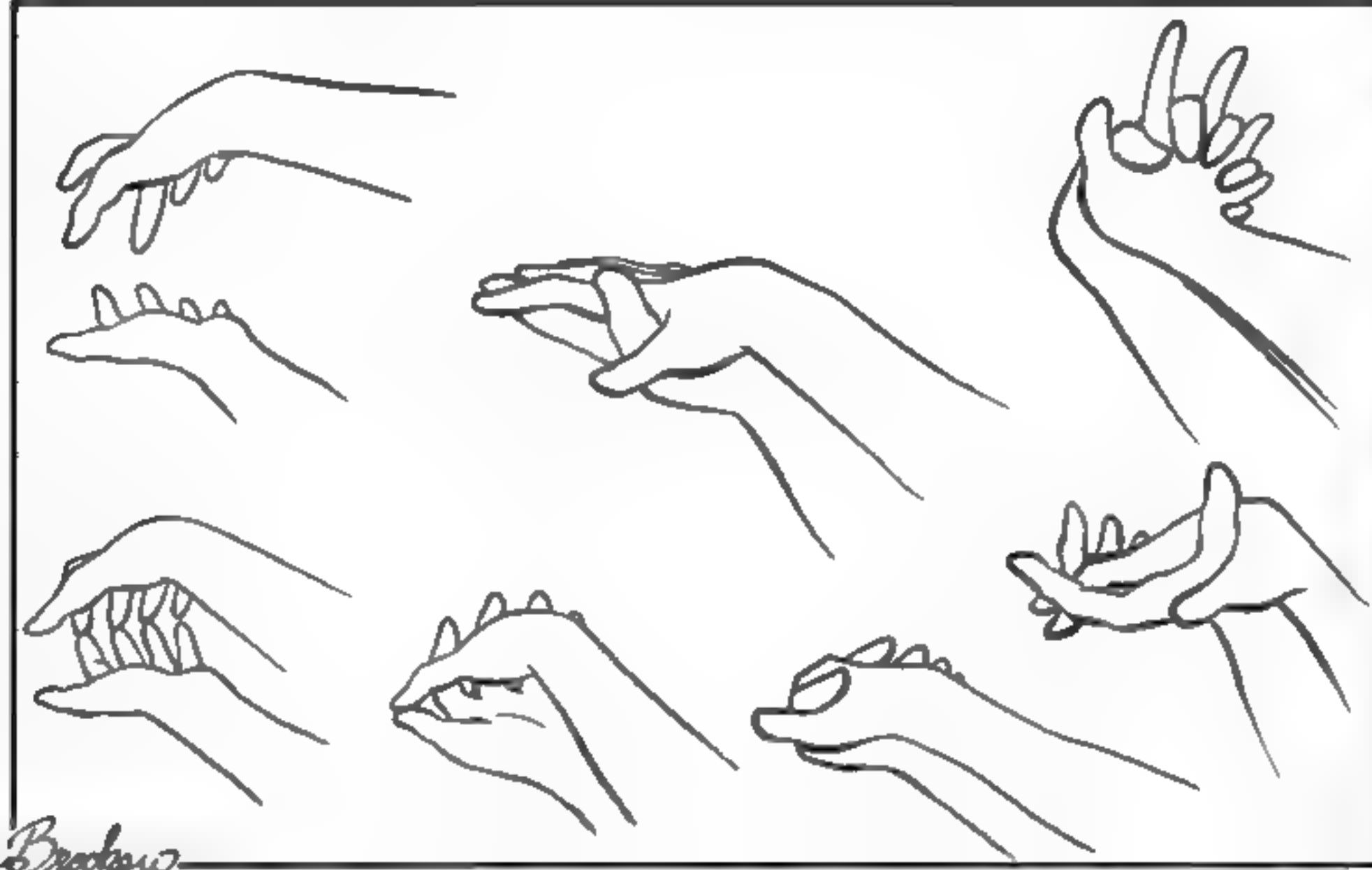
IT'S BEEN A  
WONDERFUL  
DAY.

YES,  
IT  
HAS.

AND IT PROMISES TO BE  
MORE WONDERFUL...SO NO  
MATTER WHAT HAPPENS  
IN THE FUTURE, WE WILL  
ALWAYS HAVE THIS  
MOMENT TO MAKE US  
SMILE  
AND BE  
GLAD.

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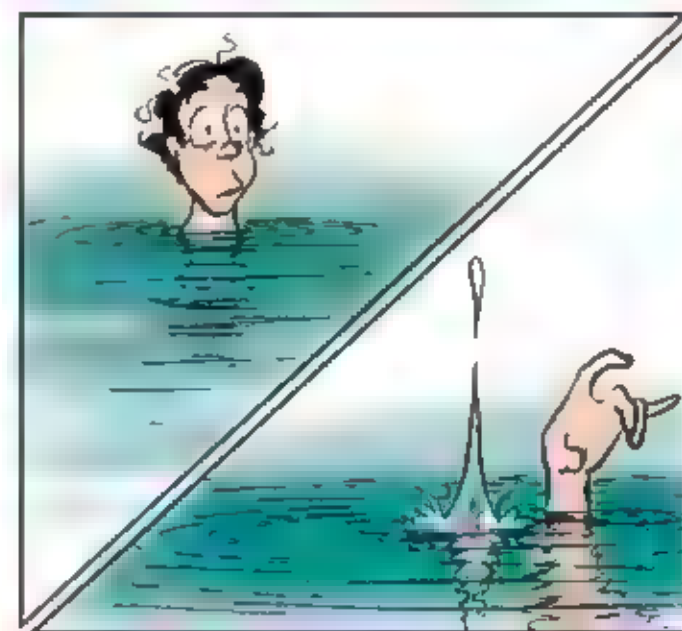
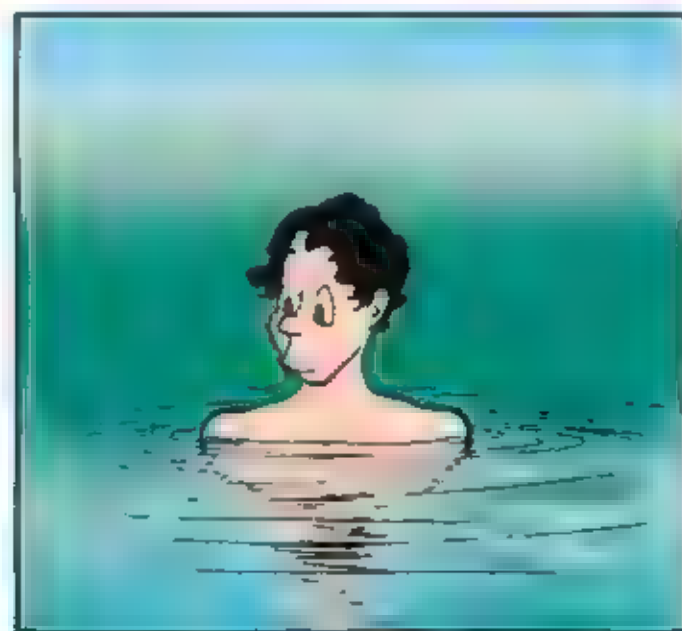
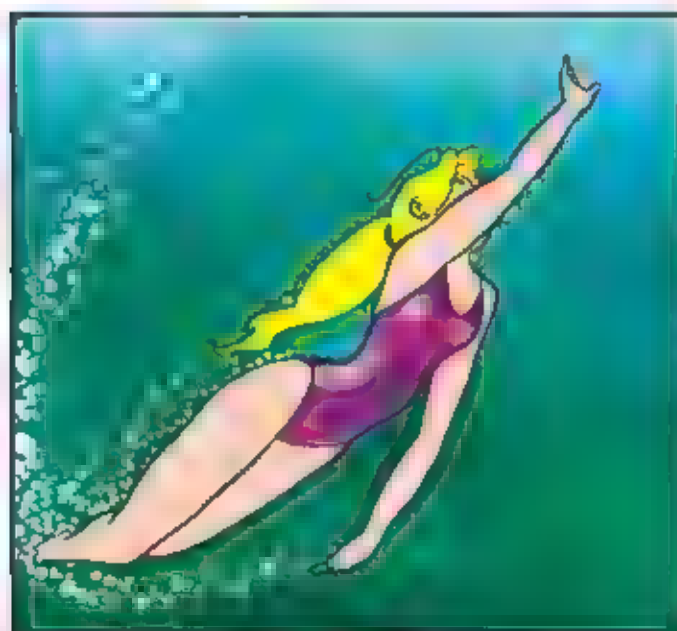
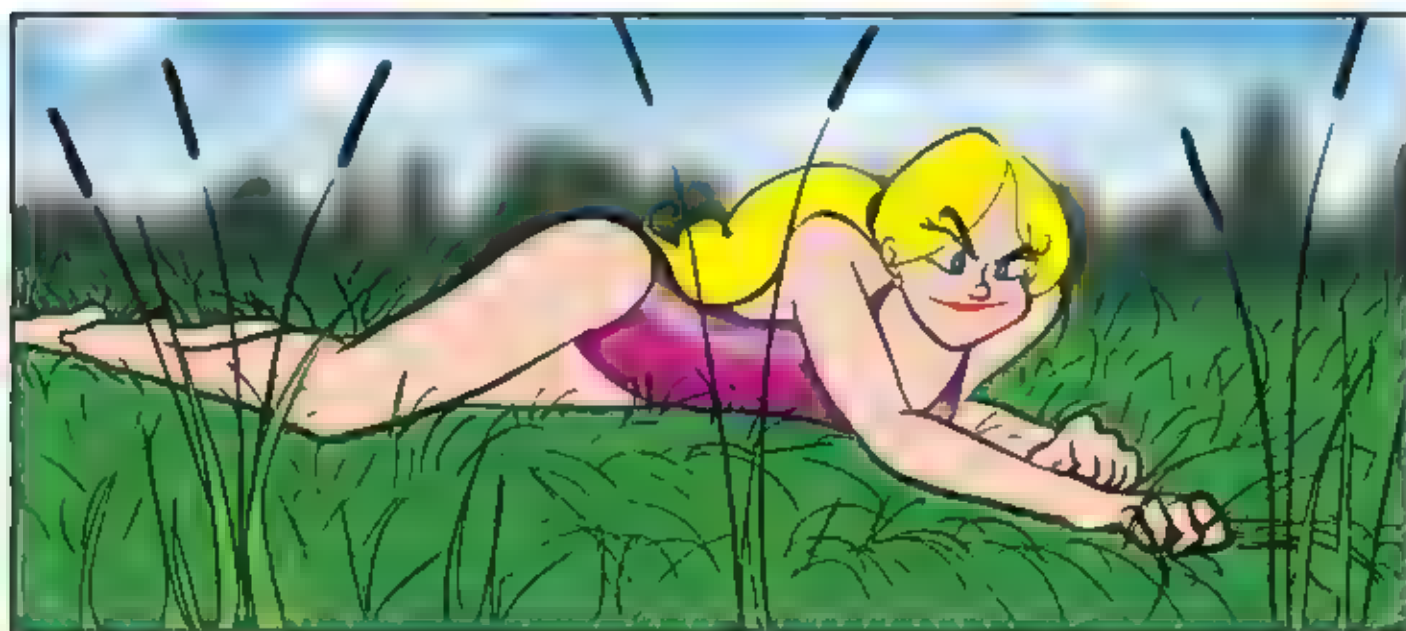
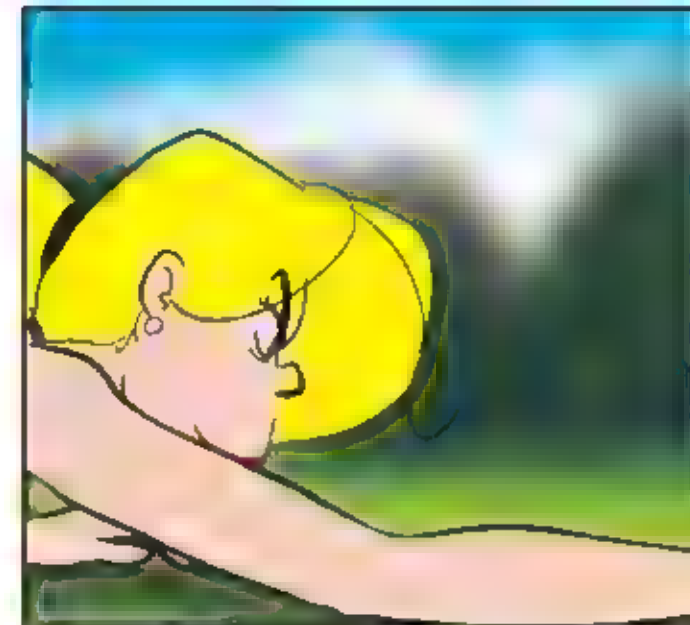
*Brooke*



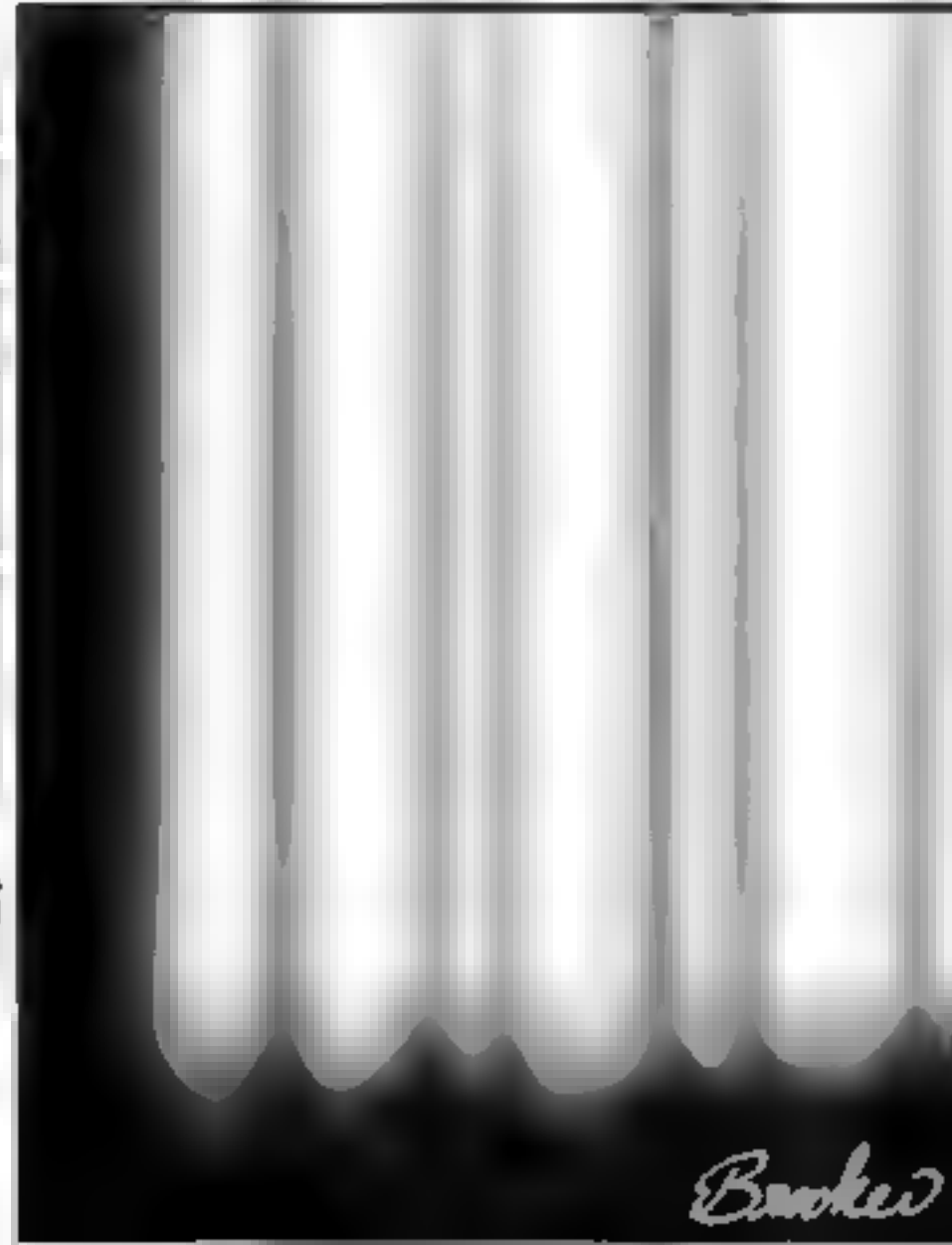
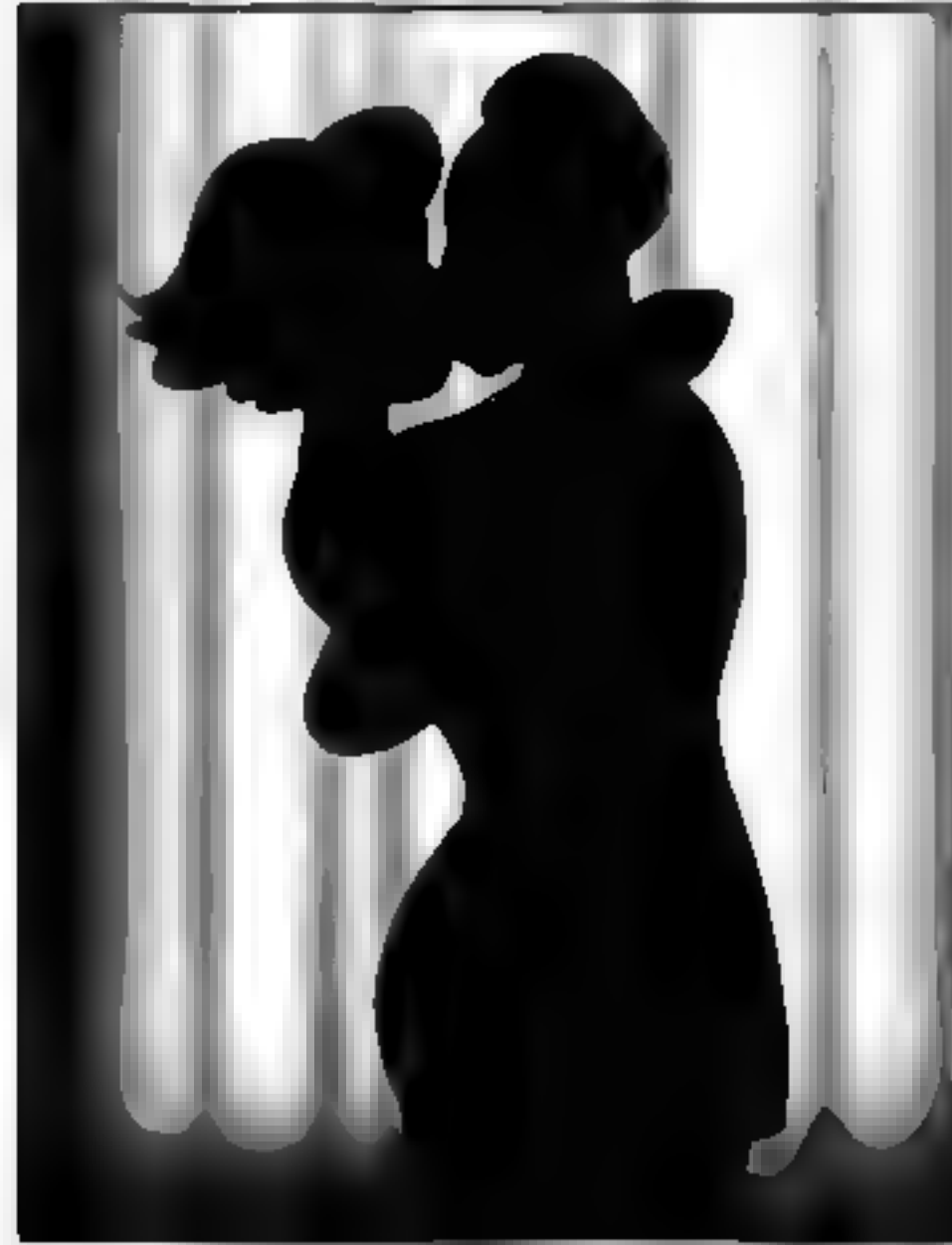


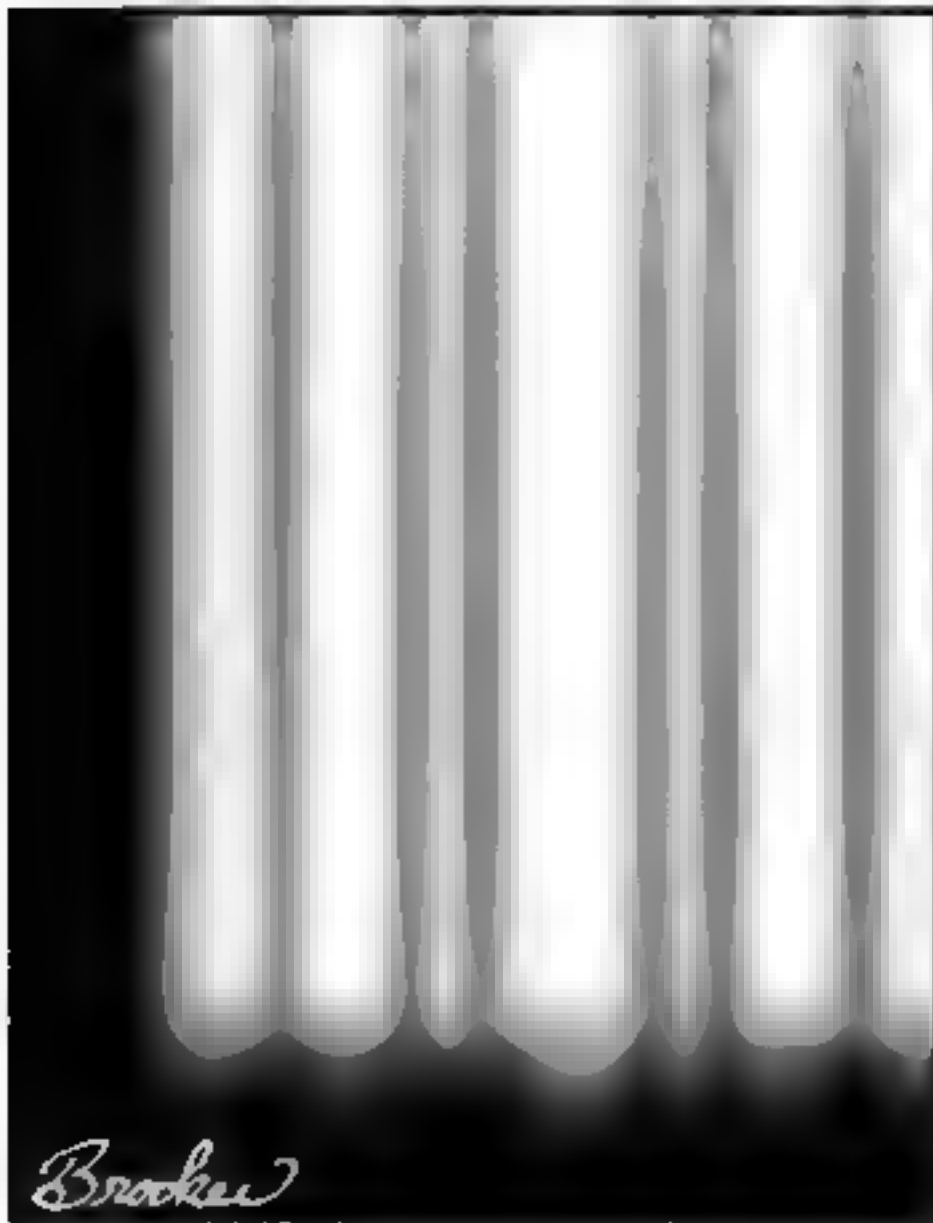


7-24 ©2010 Brooke McE downey Dns1 by FS ir



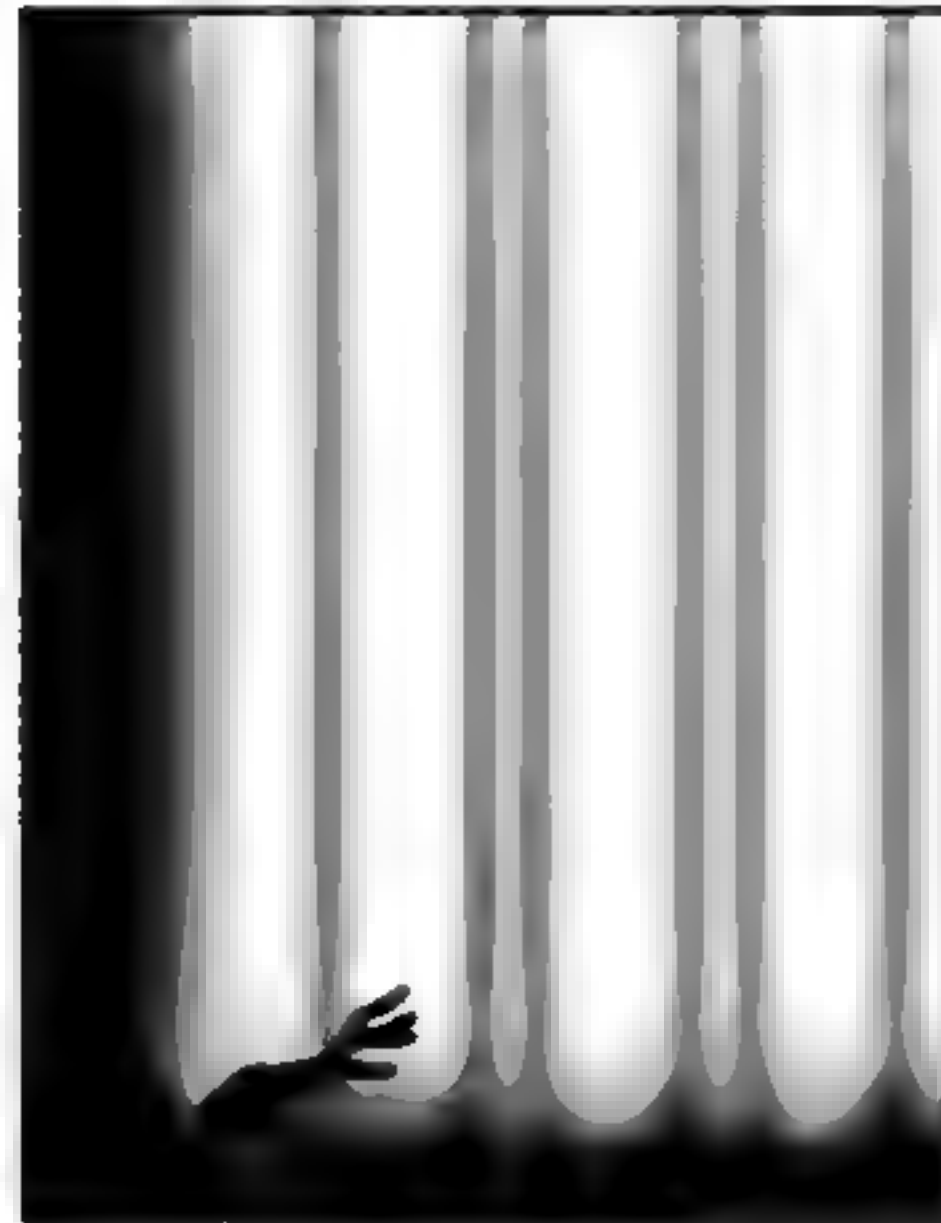
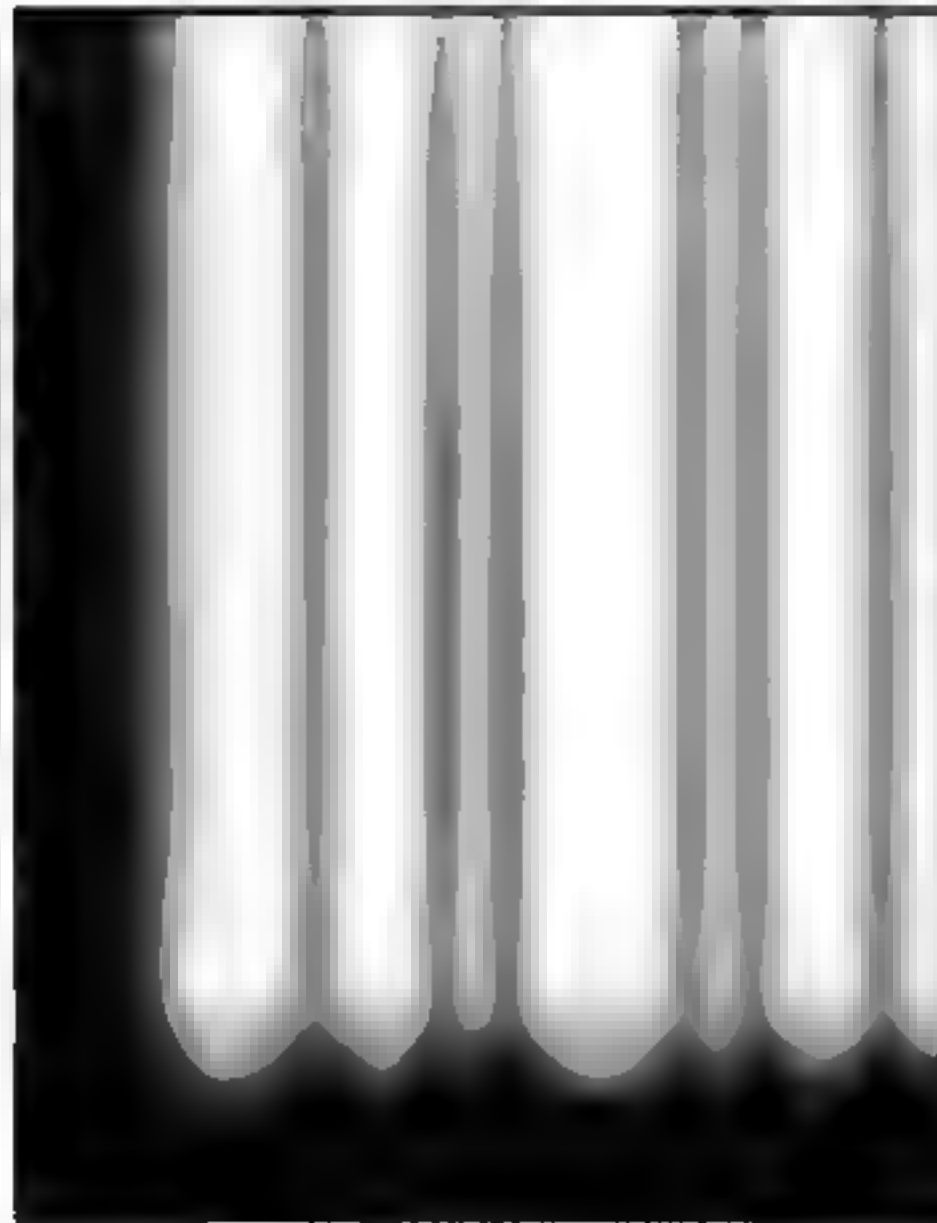




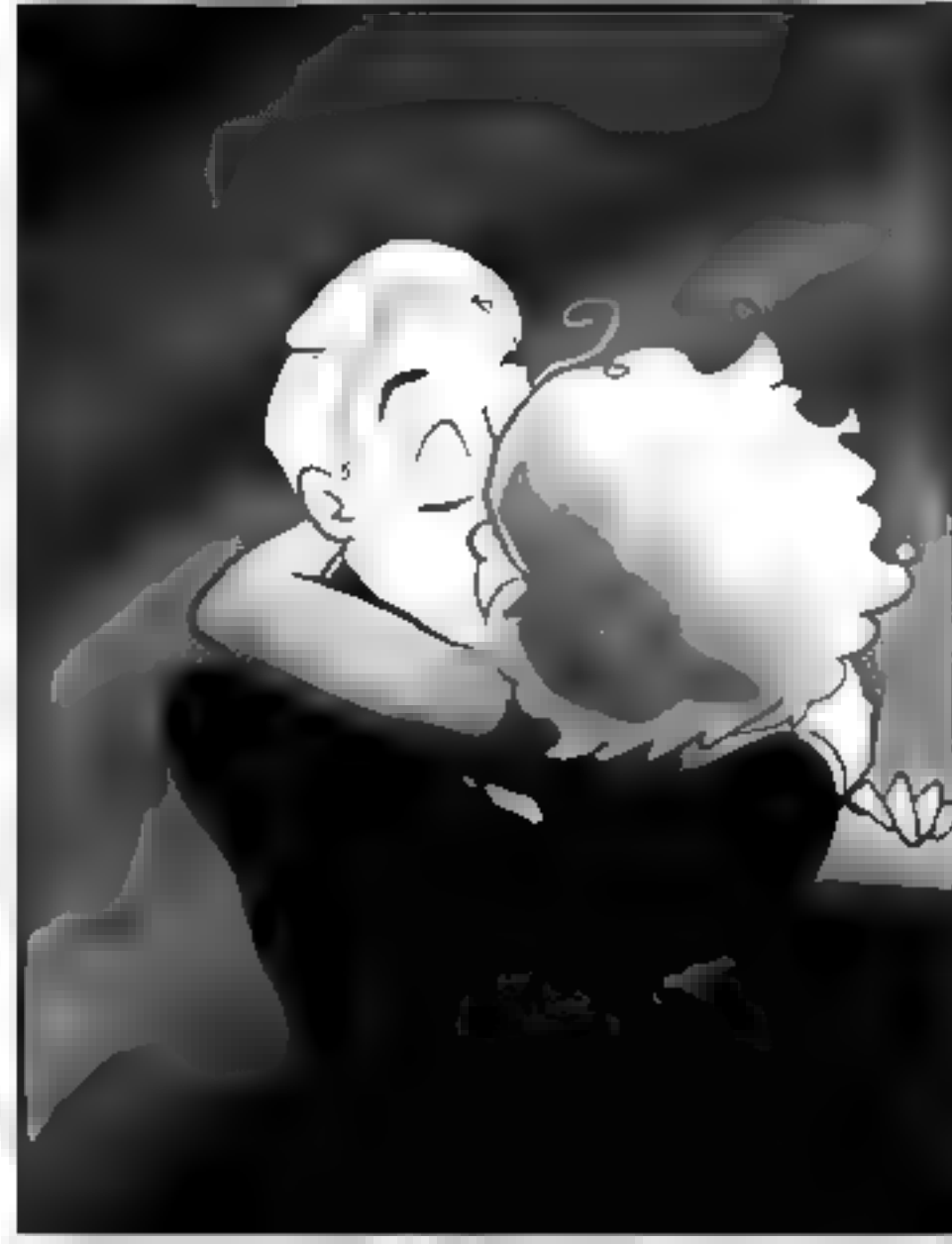


7-27

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*Endeavor*

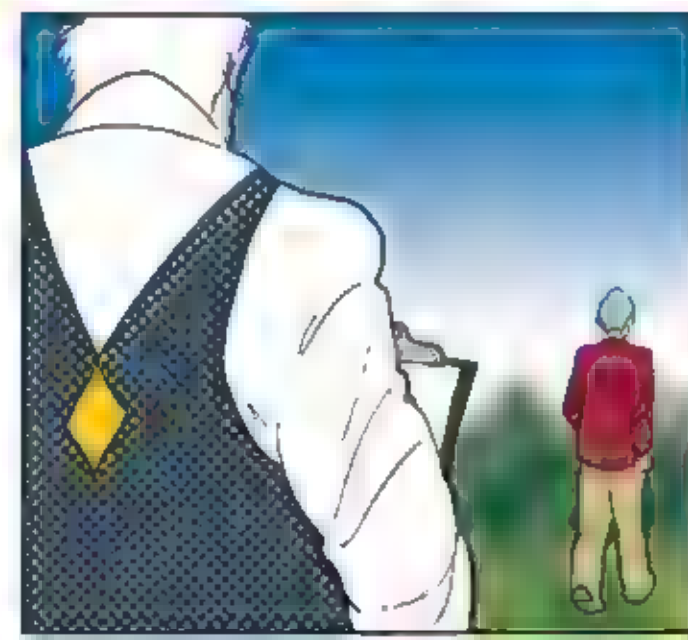
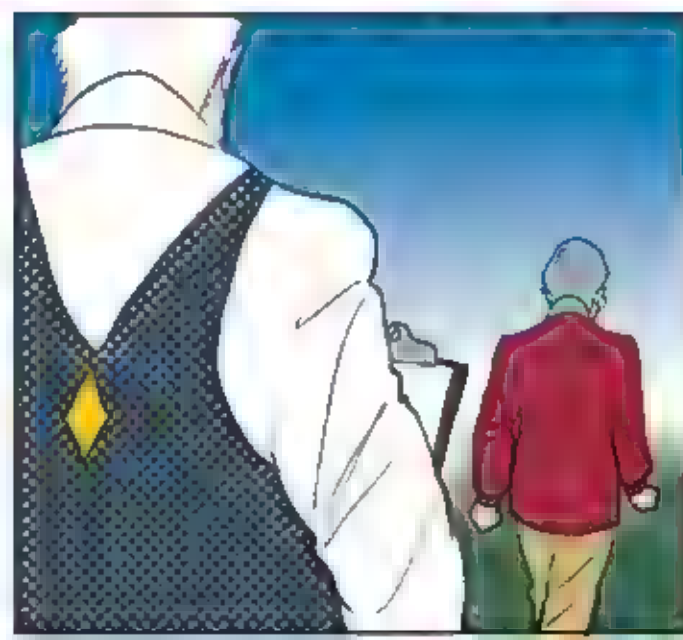
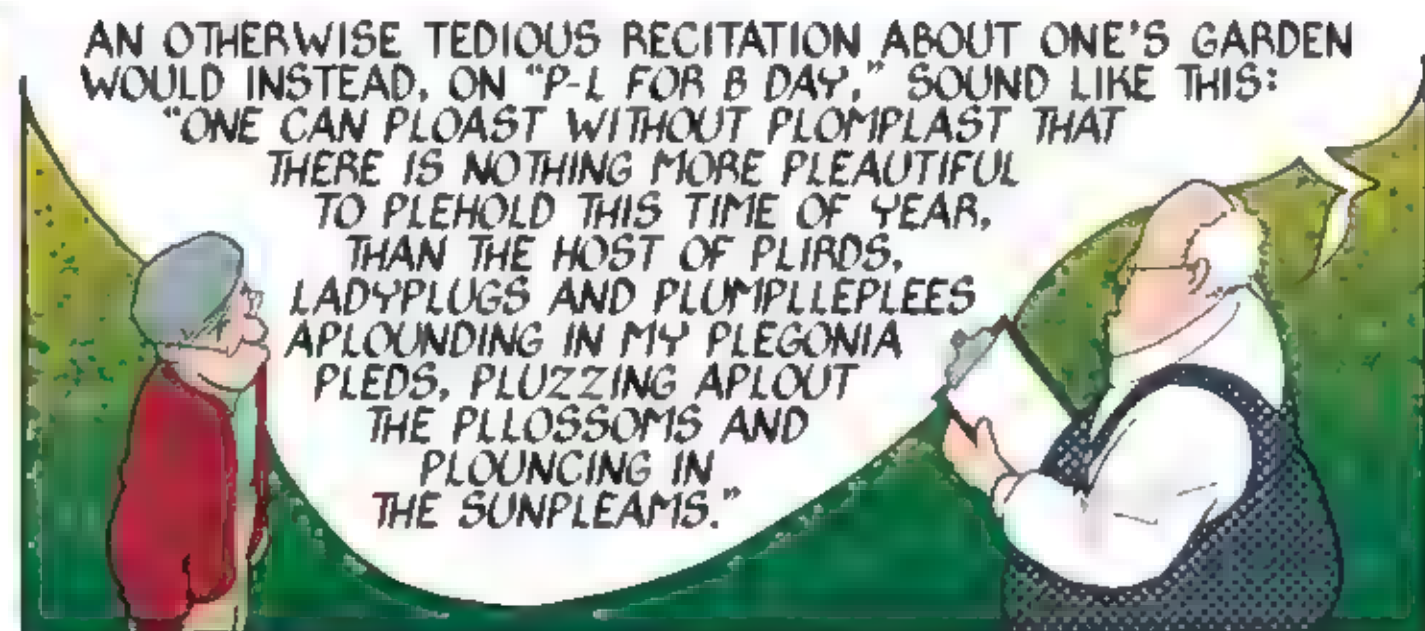
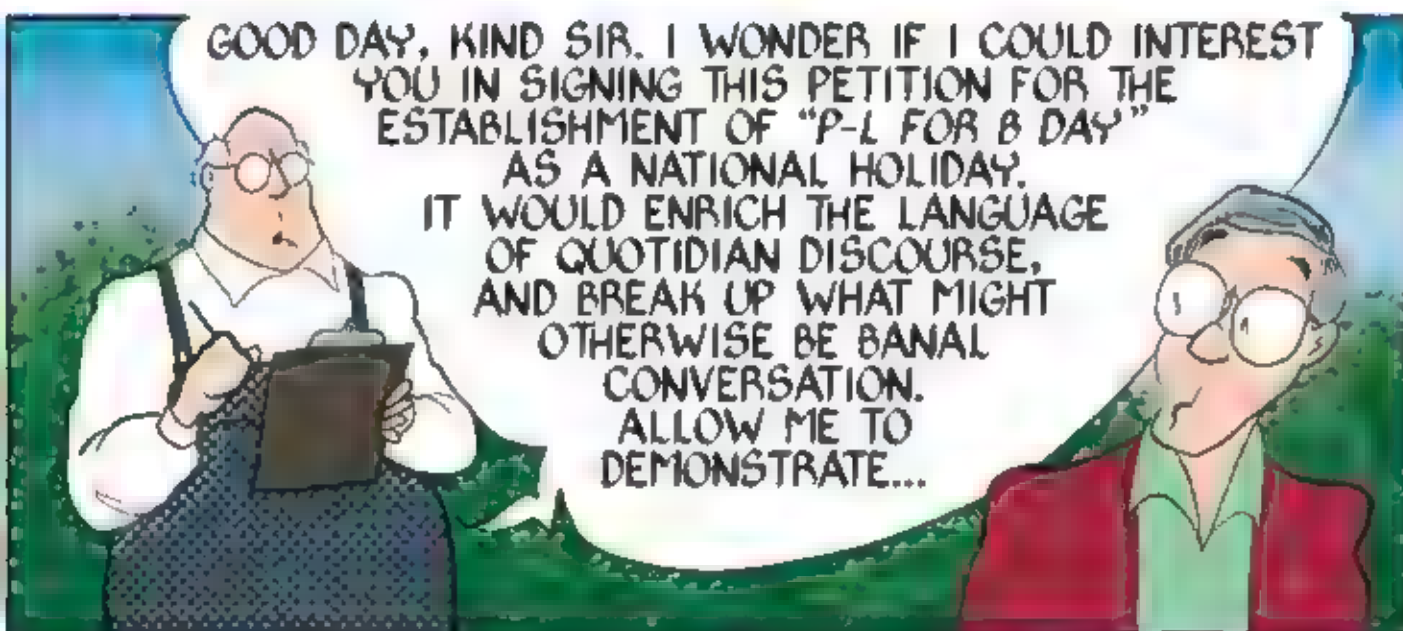
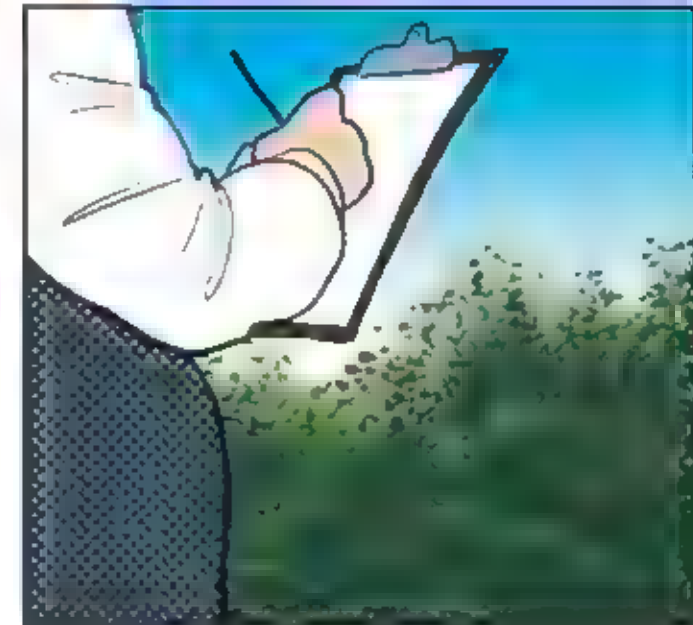








# 9 CHICKWEED LANE



I AM READY TO BE  
DISCHARGED,  
DOCTOR.



VERY WELL. BUT BEFORE I DO,  
ON YOUR LAST QUESTIONNAIRE  
YOU STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT  
AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE  
CLARK GABLE AND SHIRLEY  
TEMPLE.

THE VICE  
PRESIDENT  
IS RICHARD  
NIXON,  
AND THE  
PRESIDENT  
IS GENERAL  
EISENHOWER,  
SIR.



WE JUST  
CALL HIM  
PRESIDENT  
EISENHOWER  
NOW.

I CAN'T, SIR. WE BOTH  
WORE THE UNIFORM OF  
OUR COUNTRY,  
AND WE BOTH  
SERVED.



THEN  
IT'S TIME YOU  
HEARD SOMETHING  
EVERY VETERAN  
SHOULD HEAR.

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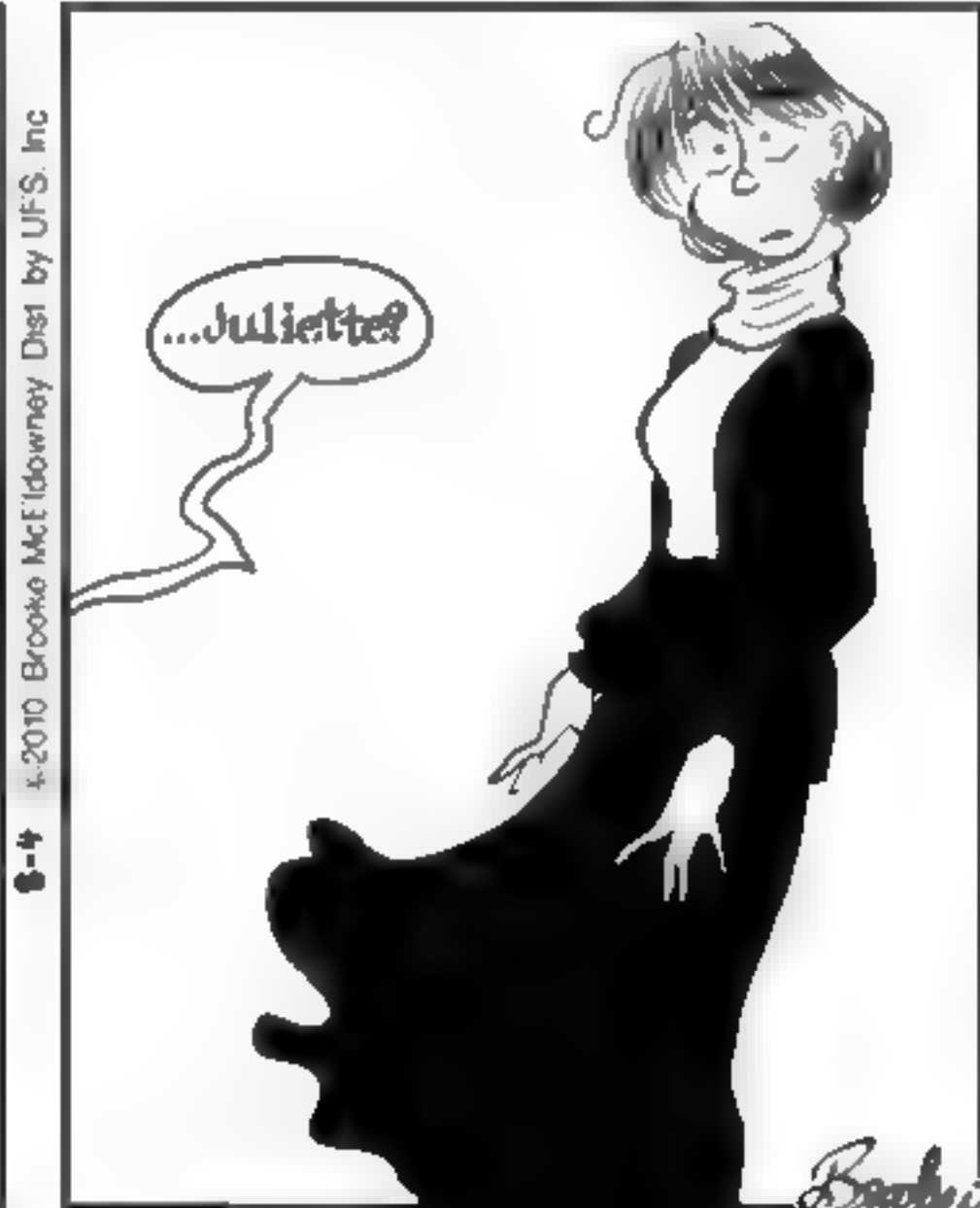


THANK  
YOU.

Brooke



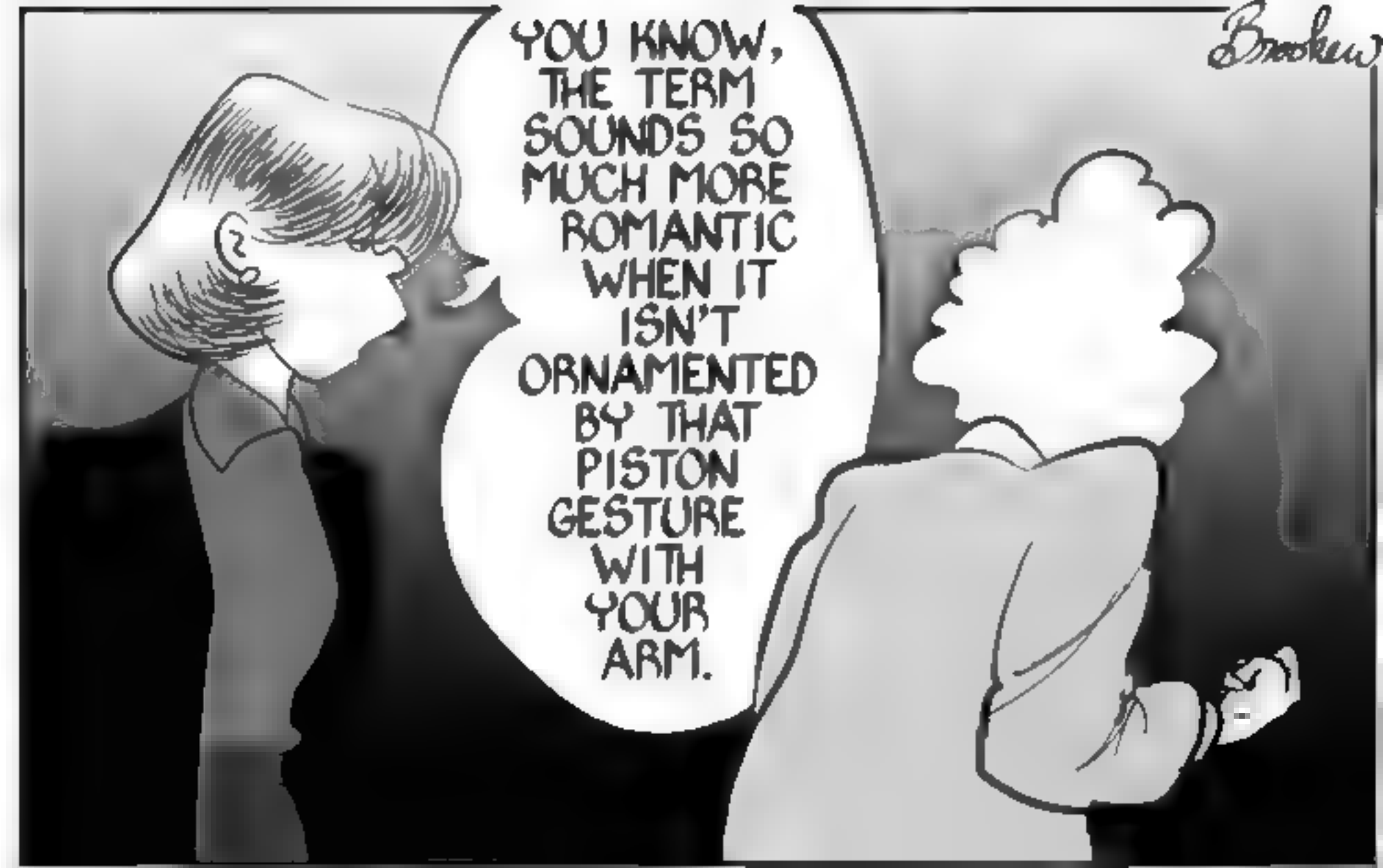








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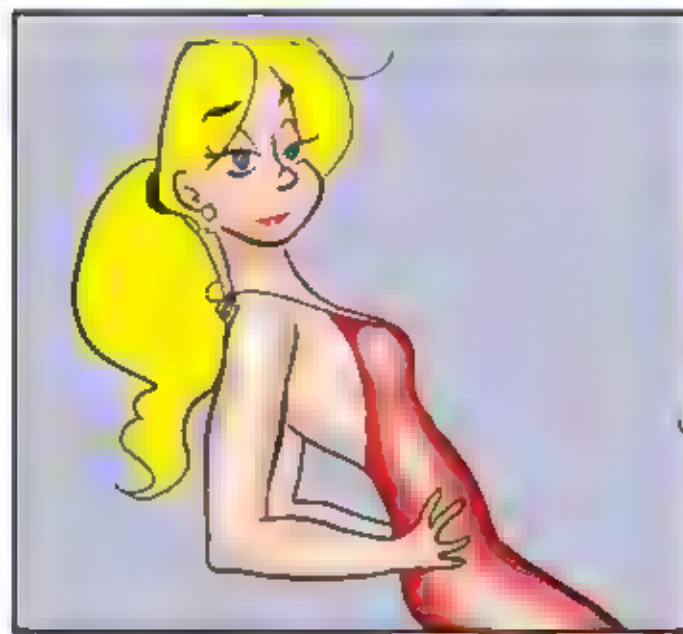
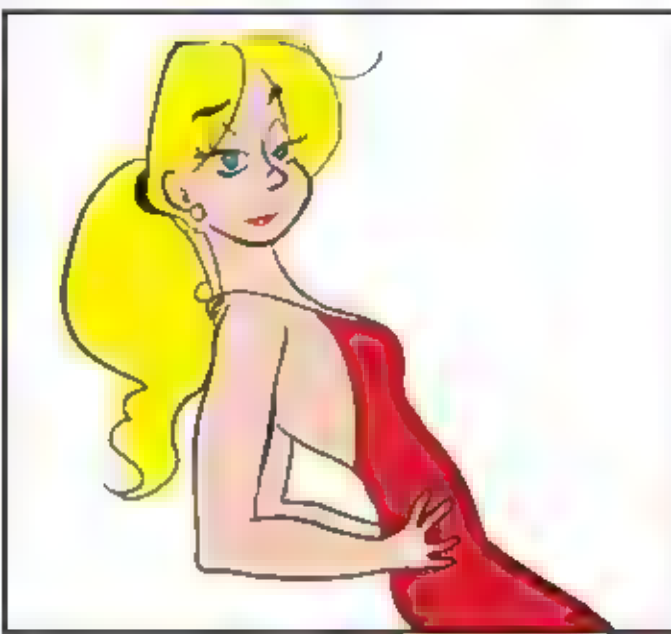
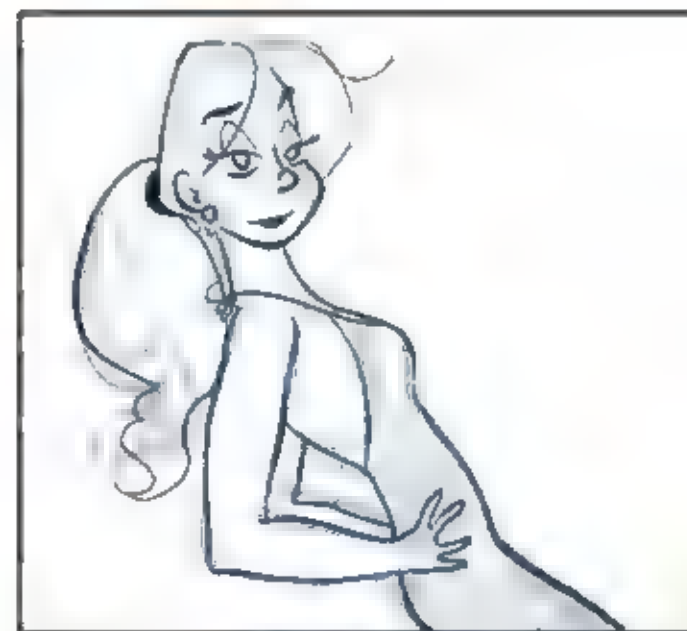
"AS SOON AS I REALIZED  
I WAS PREGNANT, I TOLD BILL  
EVERYTHING. HE KNEW  
HOW PEOPLE COULD  
BE, AND INSISTED  
THAT WE MARRY  
IMMEDIATELY...  
...TO PROTECT ME,  
AND YOU, FROM  
GOSSIP."



HE WAS A STRONG, UNDERSTANDING,  
WONDERFUL MAN, AND A WAR HERO.  
BUT IN TIME, ALTHOUGH HE LOVED  
ME, I THINK HE COULDN'T HELP  
DISLIKING ME AS WELL.




*Brooke*



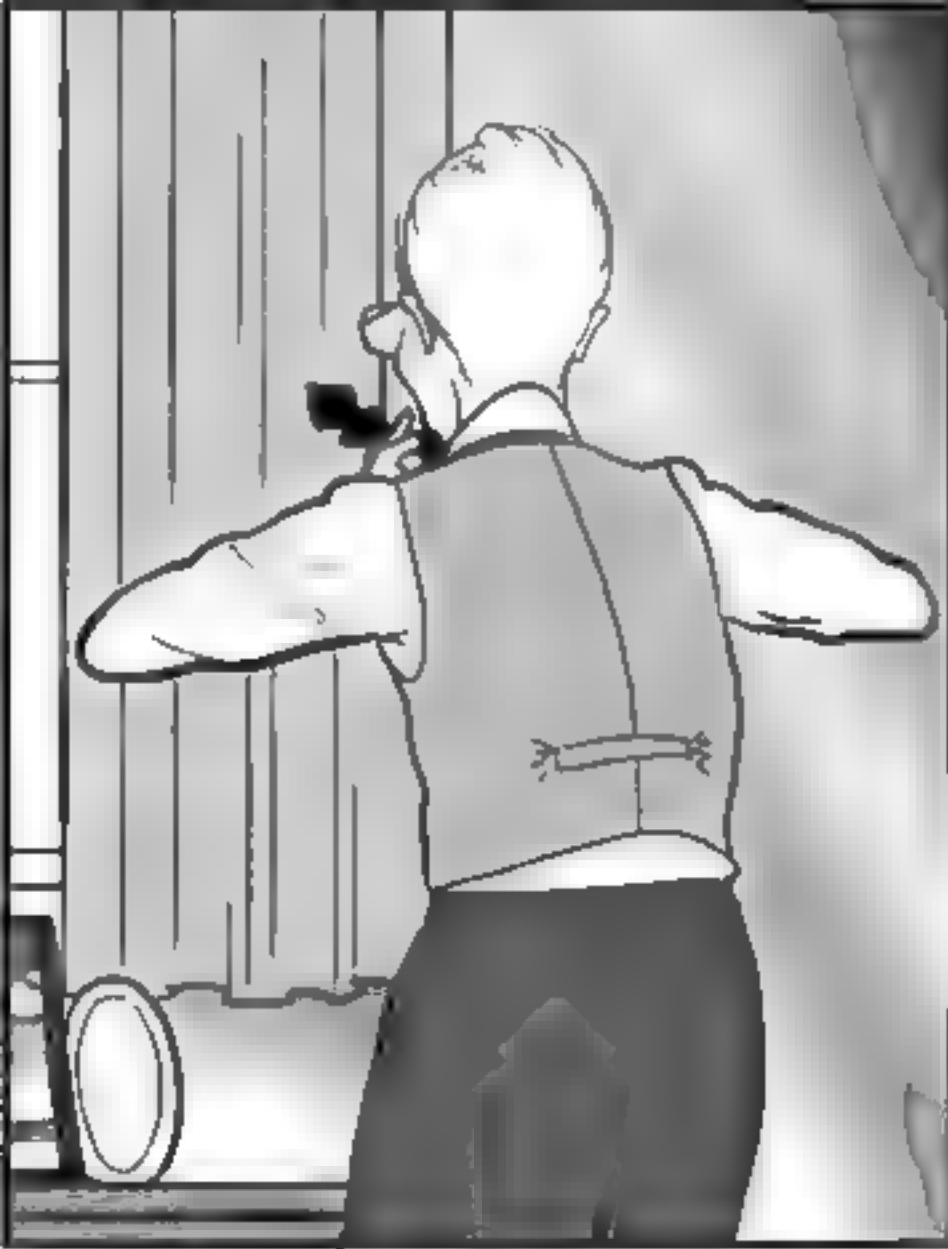


SO...I HAD ONE CHILD, THE  
RESULT OF UNDILUTED LOVE,  
AND ANOTHER LATER, AN  
EFFORT TO GLUE UP THE  
CRACKS IN A MARRIAGE.  
...AND THROUGH ALL THOSE  
SUNSETS AND  
SUNRISES  
WITH MY  
POOR  
DAMAGED  
BILL,  
I THINK  
I BECAME  
A  
TERRIBLE  
MOTHER  
TO YOU.



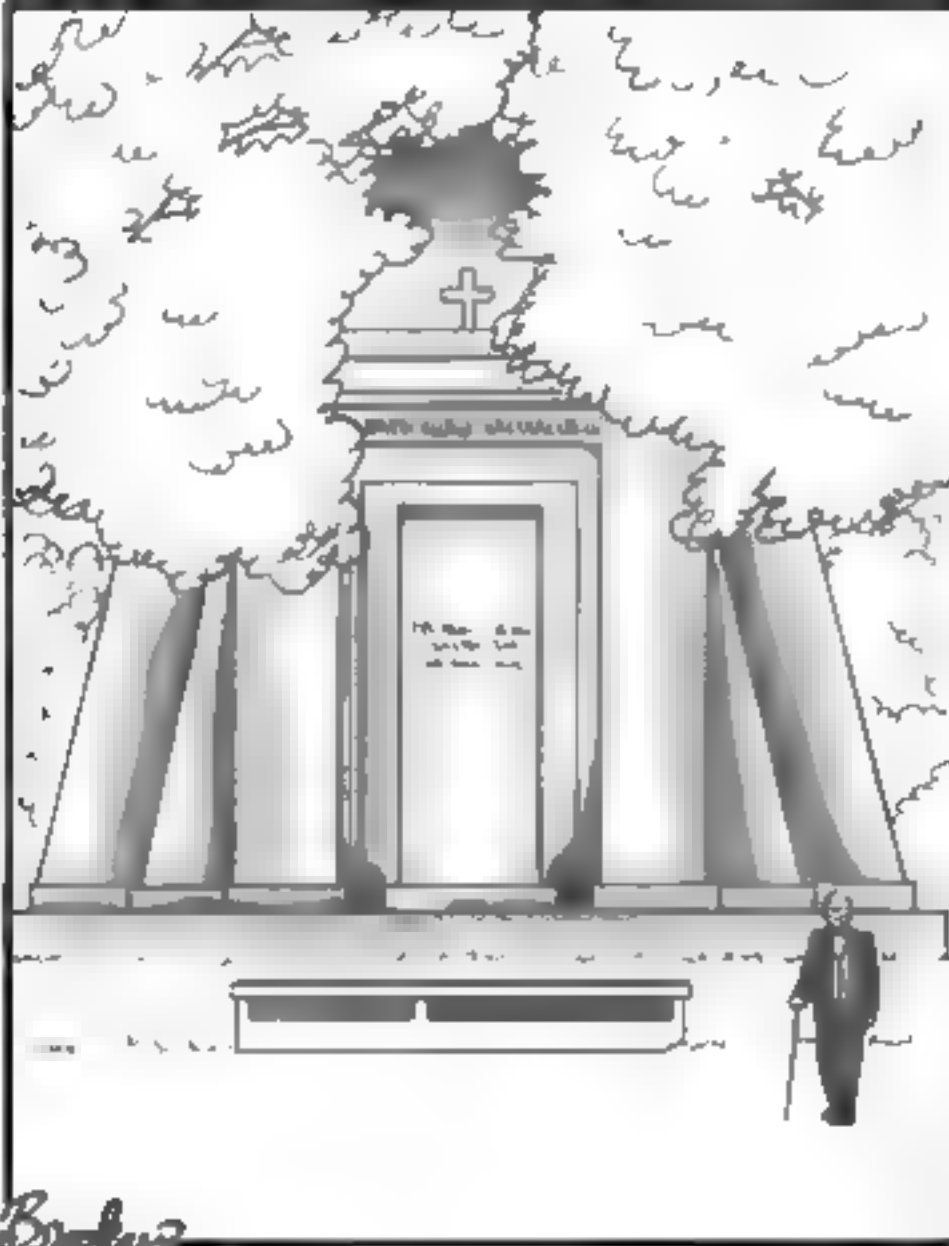








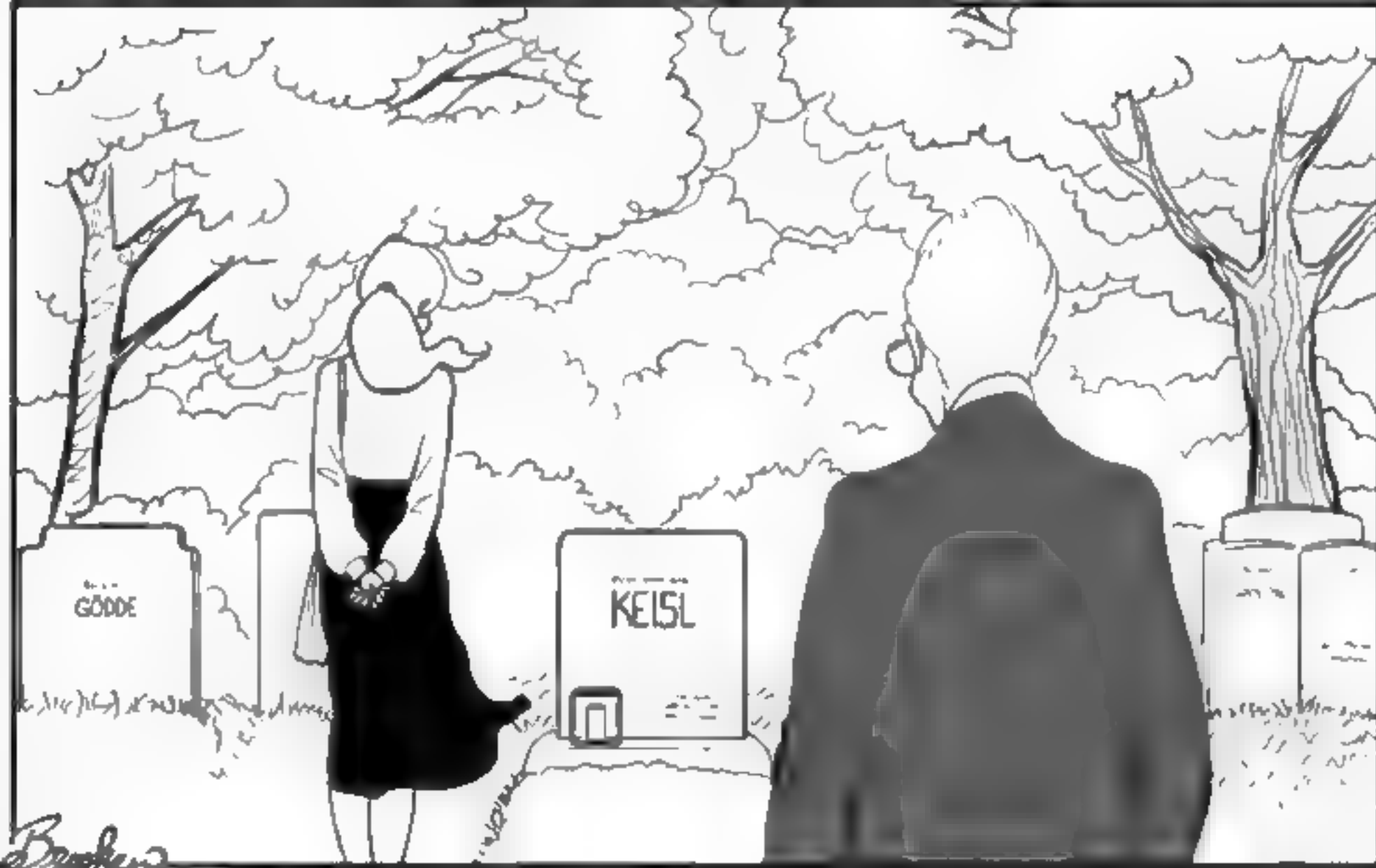
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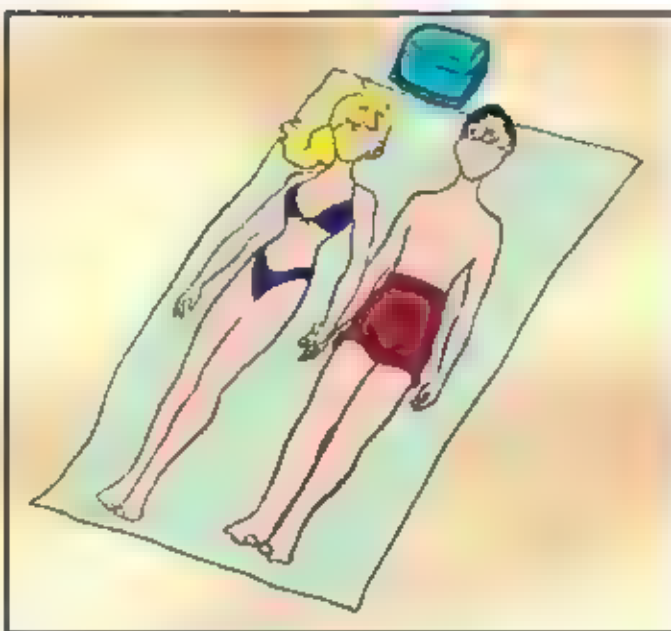
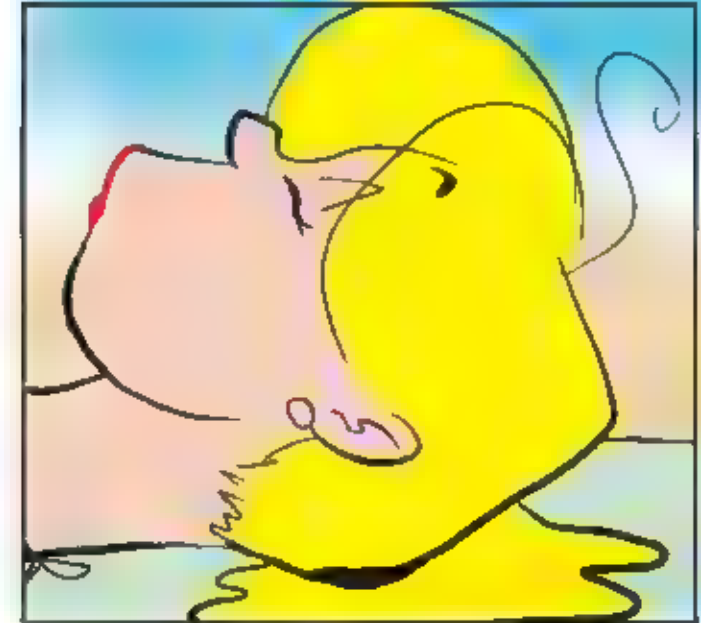
Brooke



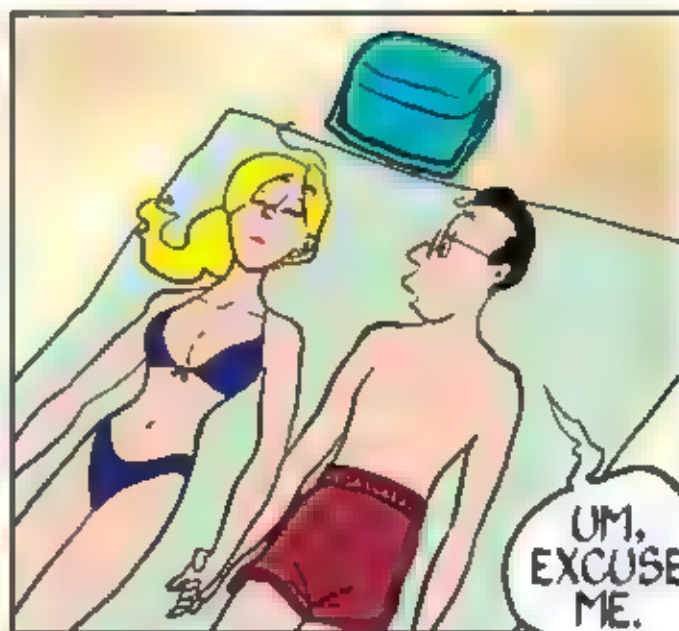




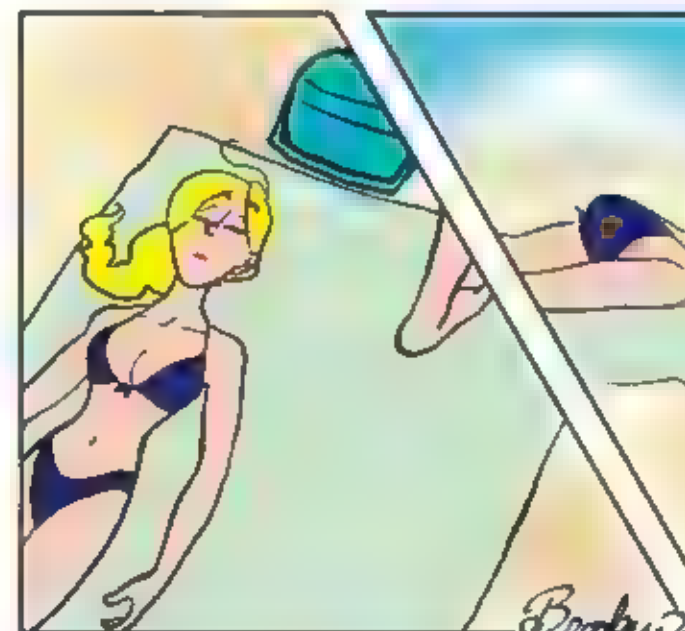




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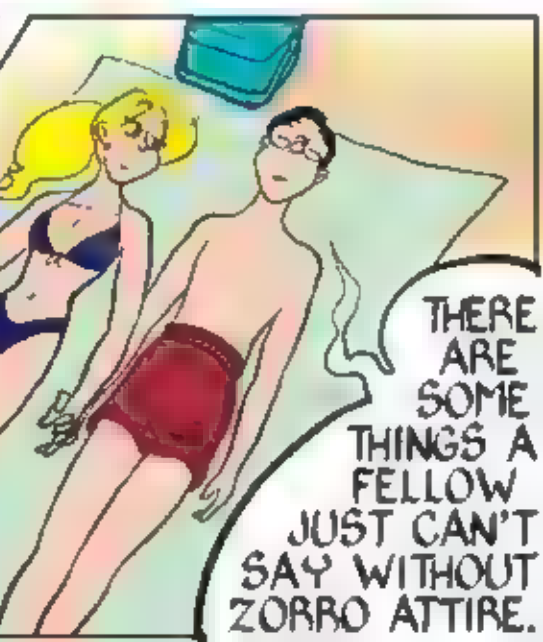
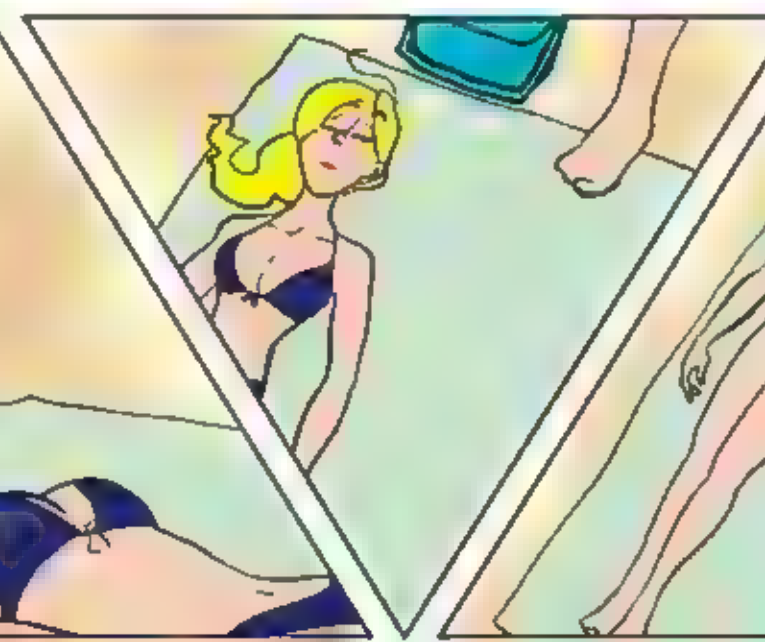
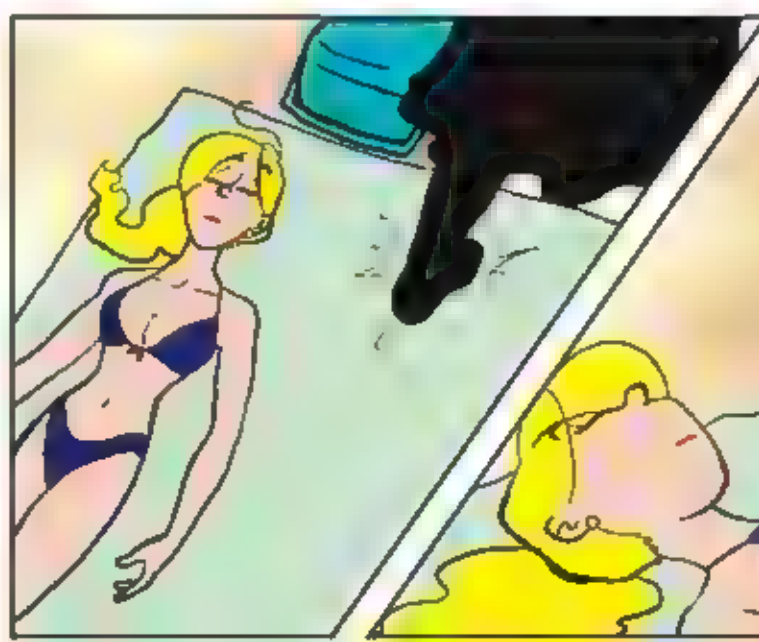
UM,  
EXCUSE  
ME.



Brooke



TEMPTRESS! YOU OVERWHELM  
MY SOUL WITH  
BLISTERING  
DESIRE!



THERE  
ARE  
SOME  
THINGS A  
FELLOW  
JUST CAN'T  
SAY WITHOUT  
ZORRO ATTIRE.







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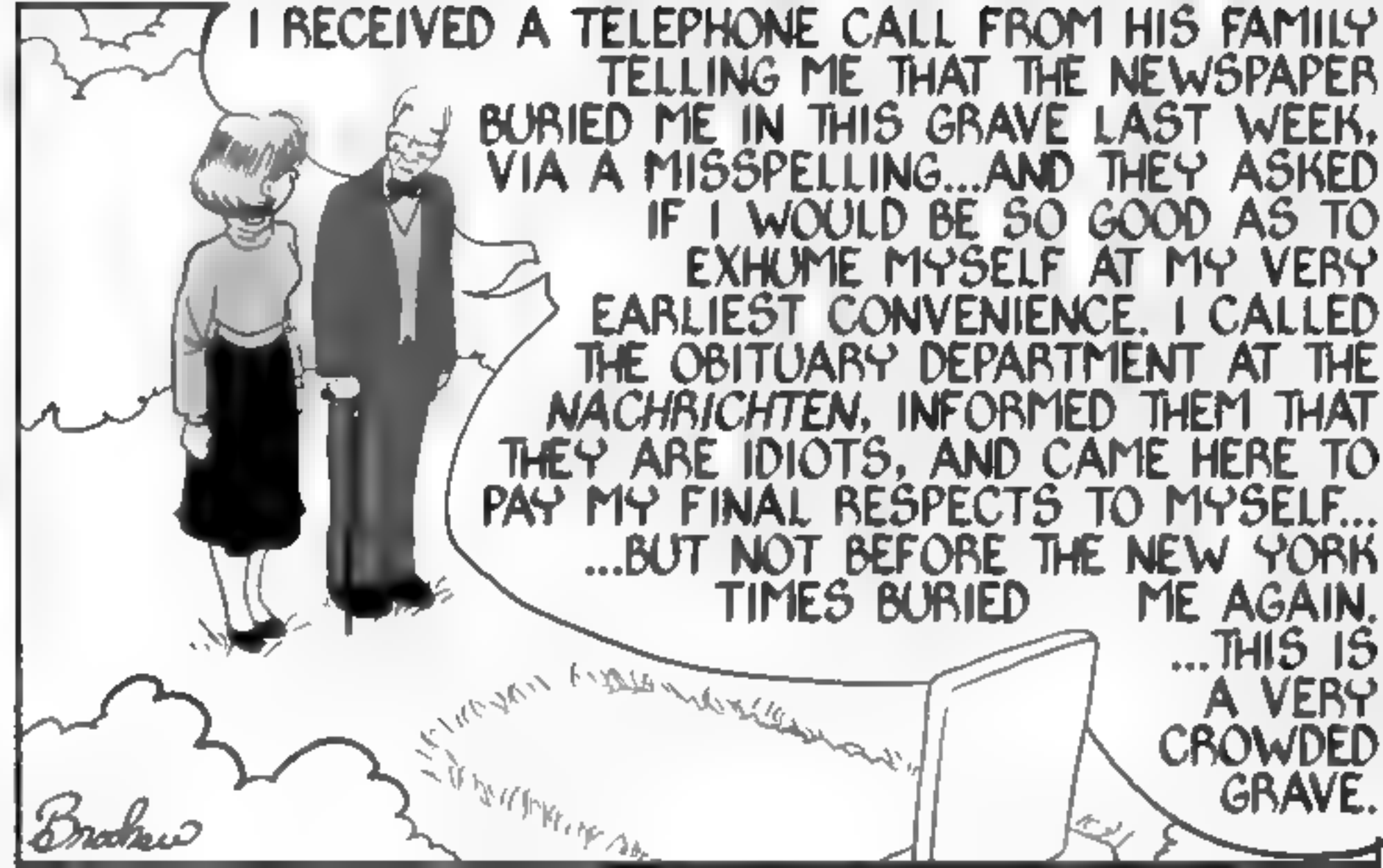








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IT WAS A WONDERFUL DAY.  
YOUR MOTHER AND I SWAM,  
STROLLED, ATE ICE CREAM,  
TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS, DINED...  
AND EVIDENTLY...



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...CONCEIVED  
YOU.



WE MISSED A PERFORMANCE  
OF "THE  
BOY  
FRIEND"  
FOR THAT.  
...I STILL  
HAVE THE  
TICKETS...



CURIOUSLY,  
THERE ARE SOME  
DATES IN ONE'S  
LIFE ONE REALLY  
DOESN'T WANT  
TO KNOW.

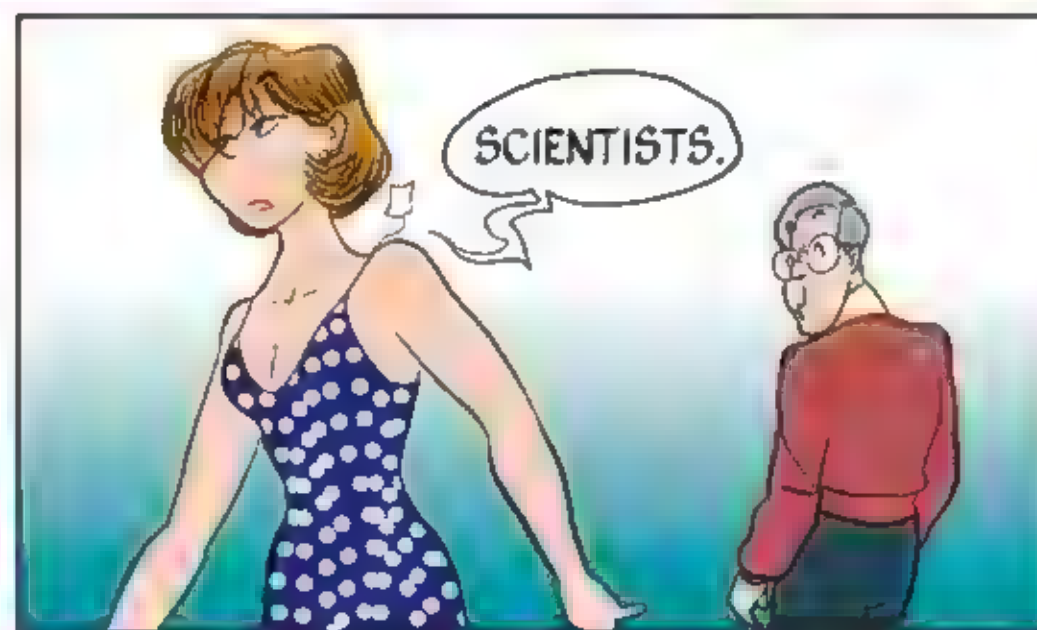
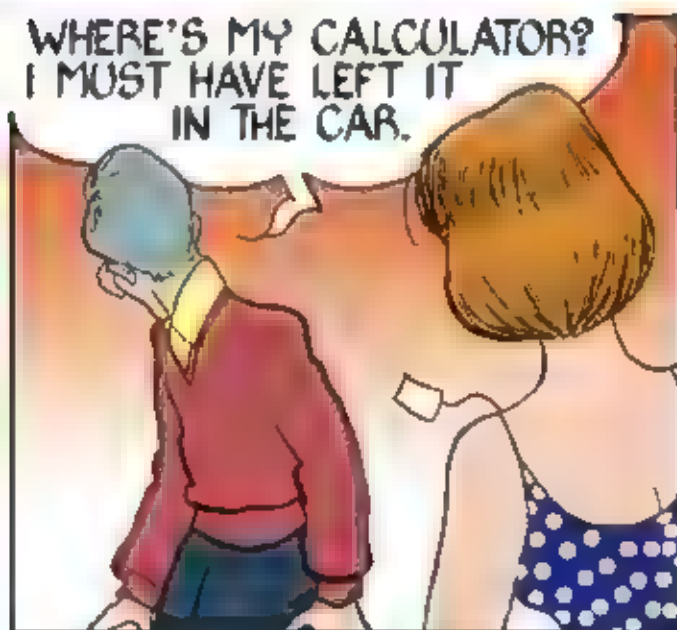
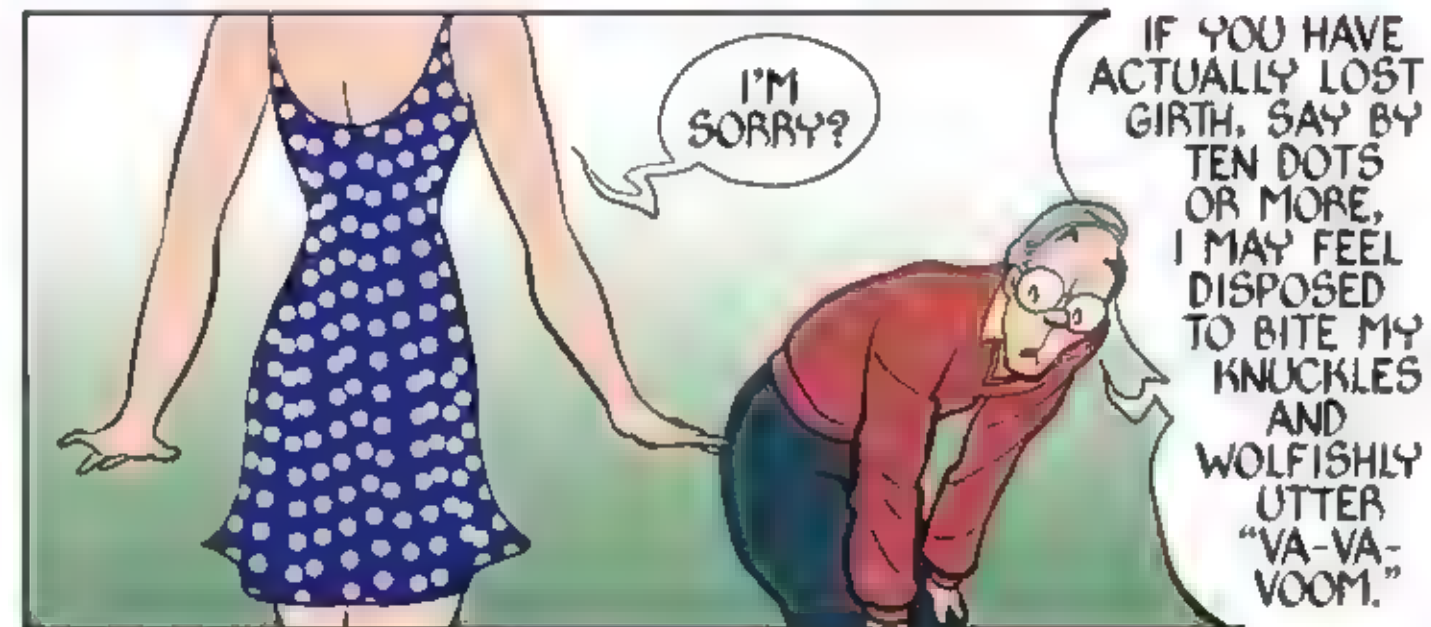
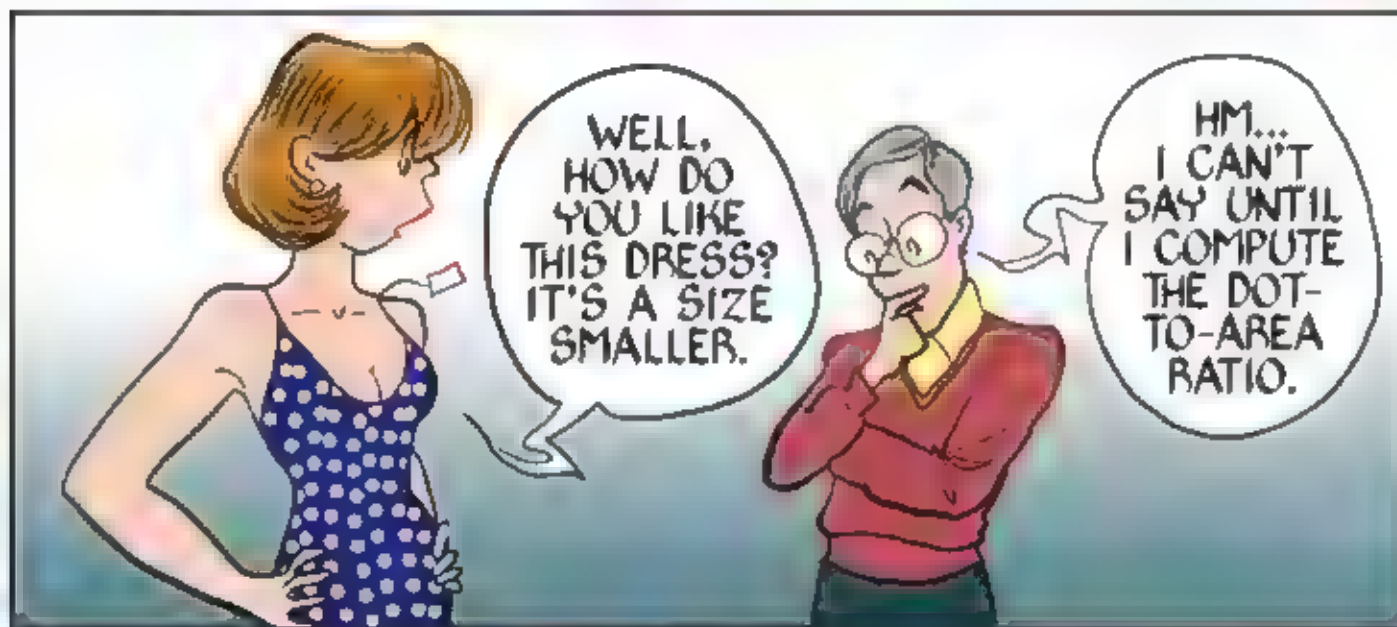
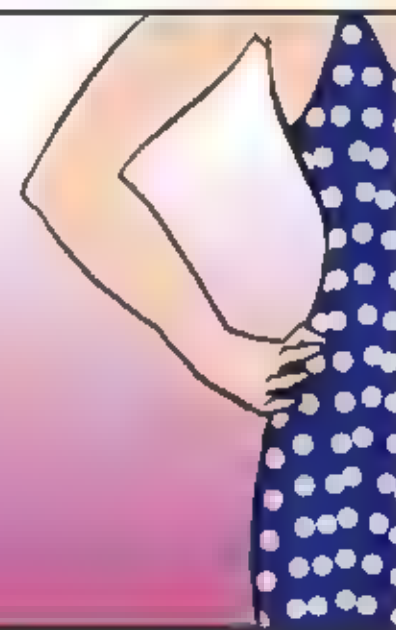
I CAN  
EVEN TELL  
YOU THE  
ADDRESS.

TOO  
MUCH  
INFORMATION.



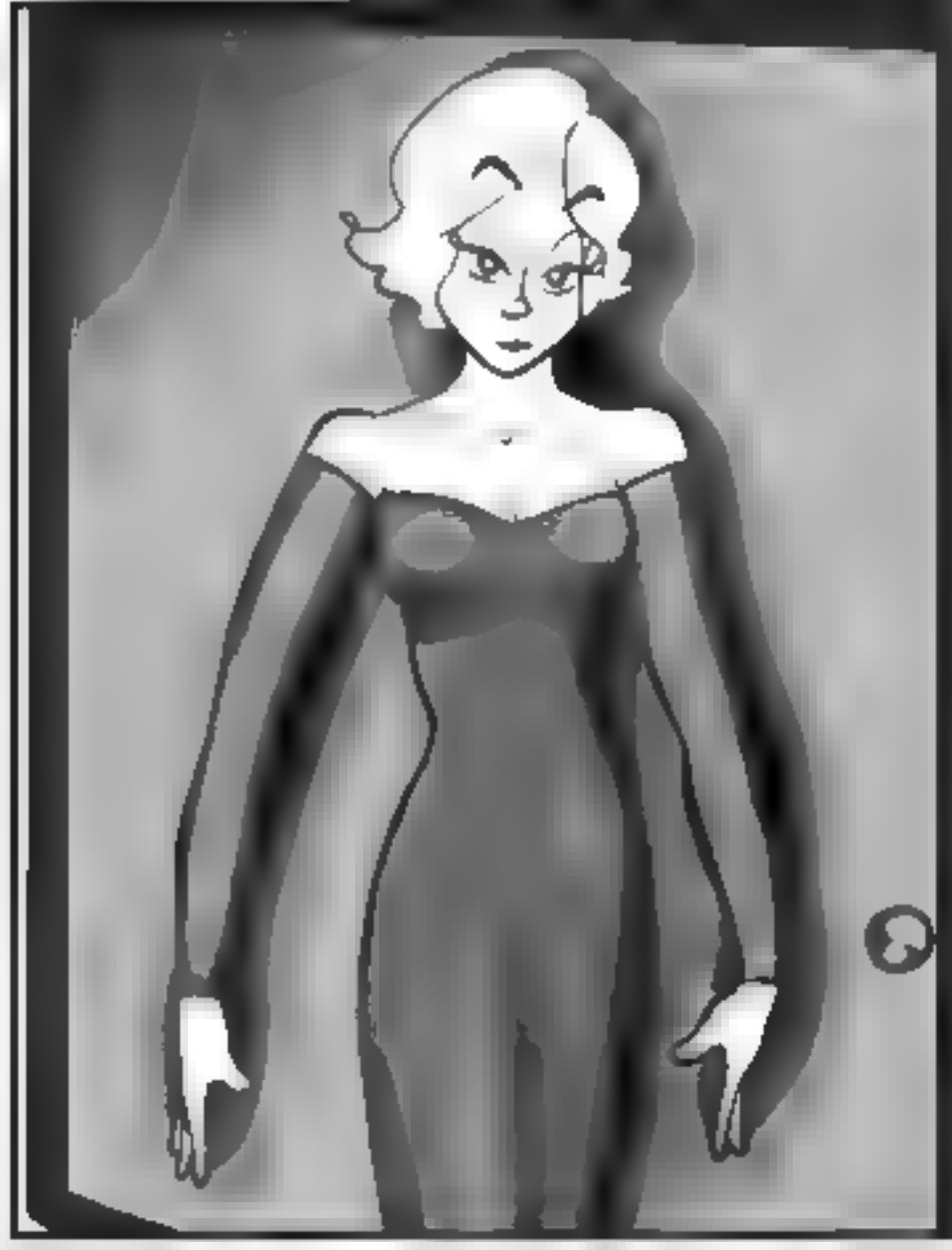


# 9 CHICKWEED LANE<sup>®</sup>





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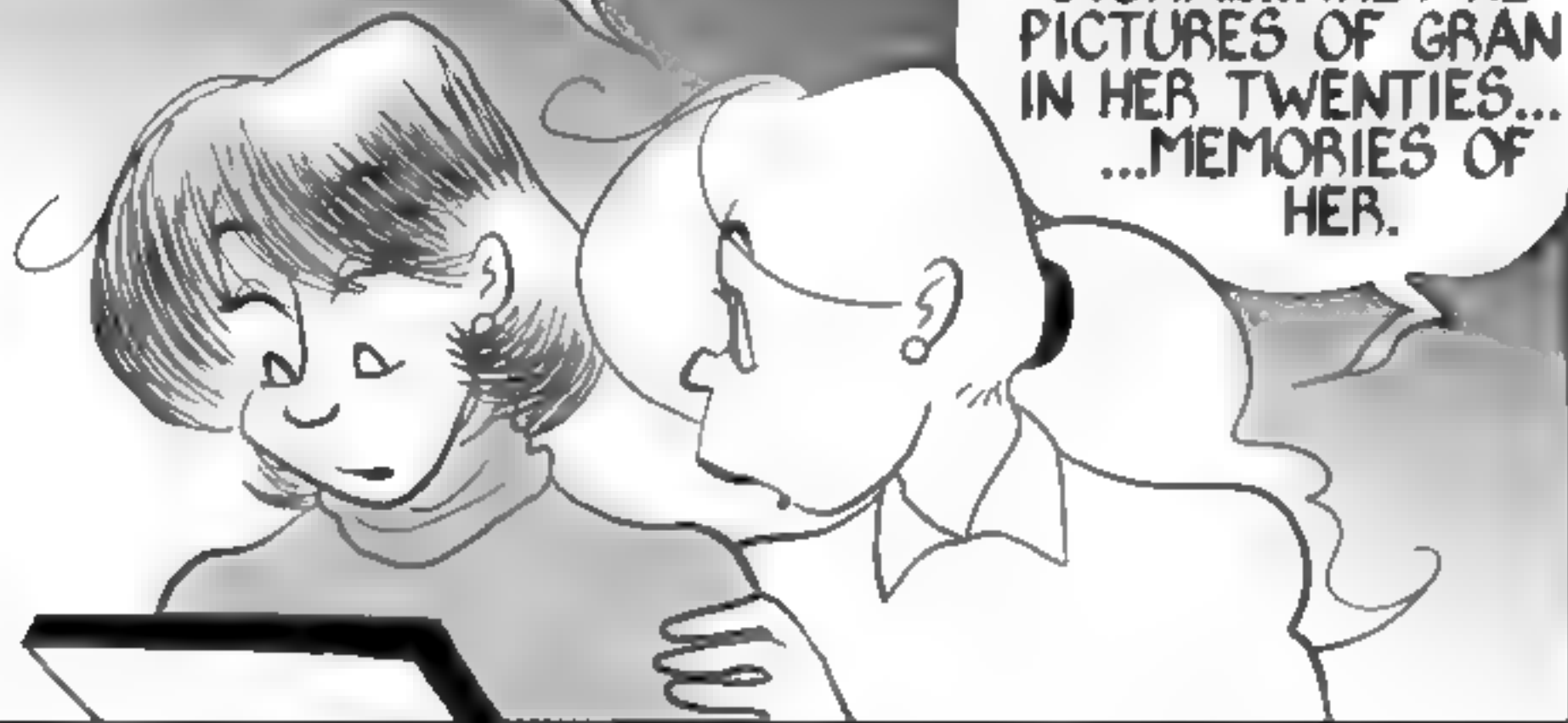
MOM...

WHAT?

HE'S  
NEVER  
GOTTEN  
OVER  
GRAN.

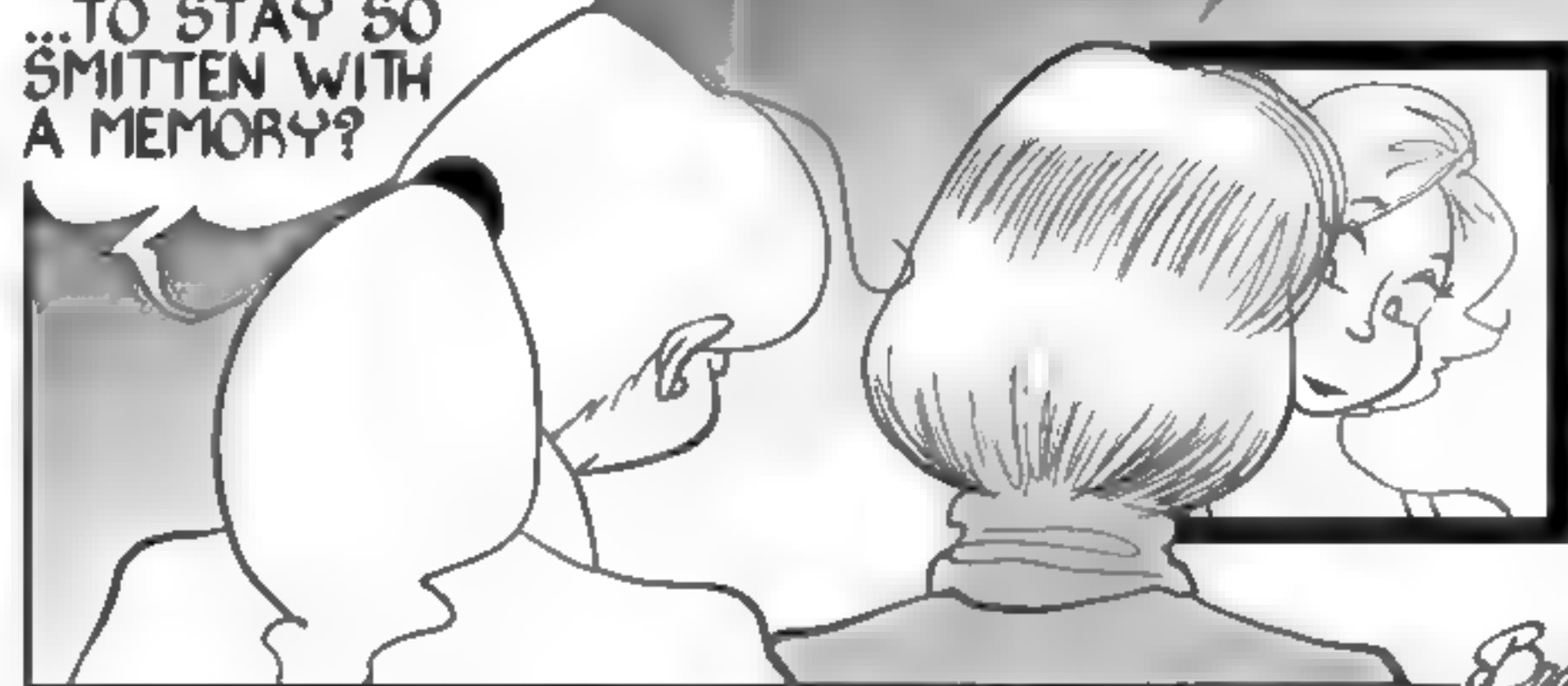
THIS IS A MAN WHO WAS A  
STAR OF THE OPERA. HE PERFORMED  
AT THE MET, MILAN, BERLIN,  
SALZBURG, PARIS, LONDON...

AND YET MOST  
OF HIS MEMENTOS  
ARE NOT PROFES-  
SIONAL...THEY'RE  
PICTURES OF GRAN  
IN HER TWENTIES...  
...MEMORIES OF  
HER.



DO YOU THINK IT  
IS POSSIBLE OVER  
THE SPAN OF FIFTY  
YEARS TO ADORE  
A LOST LOVE  
SO UTTERLY?  
...TO STAY SO  
SMITTEN WITH  
A MEMORY?

IS IT POSSIBLE  
TO DRAW BREATH?





ALL THESE PHOTOS OF MOTHER...  
...THESE LITTLE PAPER NAPKINS  
SHE TOUCHED WHEN YOU  
ORDERED DRINKS.  
...THE TICKETS TO  
SHOWS YOU  
ATTENDED  
TOGETHER.

IT LOOKS LIKE  
A MADAME TUSSAUD'S.  
...A MORGUE OF MY  
PAST.



Brace



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IT LOOKS LIKE A  
SEEPING WOUND,  
AND YOU KNOW IT.



THE FACT IS EVA SLIPPED  
FROM MY HANDS IN THE  
1950'S, BUT I COULD  
NEVER REALLY LET GO  
OF HER.



WHAT  
DOES  
THAT  
MEAN...  
...“AW”?

IT'S AN  
EXPRESSION  
OF LOVE AND  
SYMPATHY.



I JUST CLOSED MY  
FINGERS IN A KITCHEN  
DRAWER.



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OF COURSE,  
IT'S WIDELY  
APPLICABLE.



Brooke

WE BOTH ARRIVED AT AN UNDERSTANDING ALL THOSE YEARS AGO. WE THOUGHT IT BEST.



AND DO YOU THINK YOU MADE THE WRONG DECISION?

THERE WAS NO WAY TO MAKE A RIGHT DECISION. EVERY DECISION WAS WRONG. EVERY STRAW WE DREW WAS SHORT.



IT'S NOT A FAIR QUESTION FOR A LOVE-STRUCK YOUNG MAN IMPRISONED IN THE BODY OF ANCIENT FRAILTIES LIKE MINE. MY HEART SWELLS, MY THROAT GROWS SPEECHLESS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE FOR WHICH I EVER STRUGGLED TURNS TO A MIST NEXT TO THE MEMORY OF HER FACE.

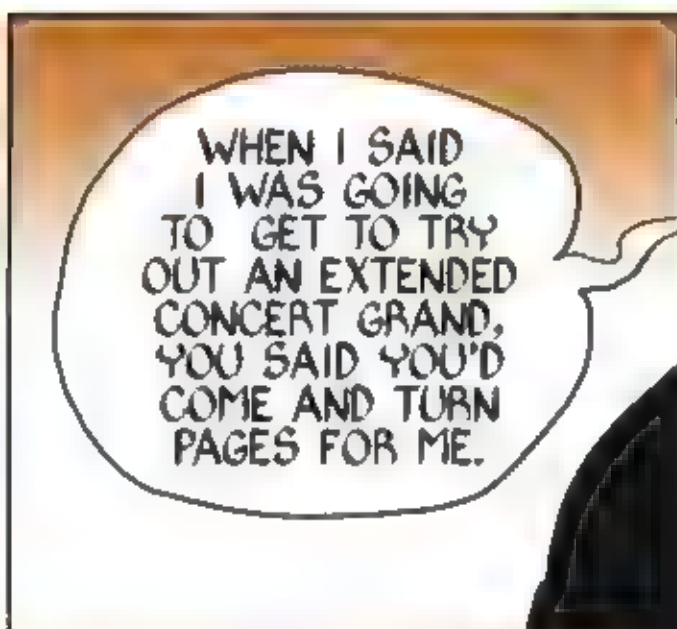


BUT THIS IS AN ANTIQUE CHAPTER NOW, AND WE'RE ANTIQUE PEOPLE. IT'S ALL OVER.









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MOM, FORGIVE MY INTRUSION  
INTO YOUR BROWN STUDY,  
BUT DID YOU  
EVEN SAY  
GOODBYE  
TO PETER?

I DID NOT.  
I'M DISGUSTED  
WITH HIM.



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FOR THE FIRST TIME, I REALLY  
UNDERSTAND MY MOTHER...  
...BUT MY FATHER WANTS  
EVERYTHING TO STAY JUST  
THE WAY IT WAS.



SO,  
YOU SAID  
NOTHING?

Brooke

NOT  
ENTIRELY.  
I LOOKED  
AT HIM  
LIKE THIS.



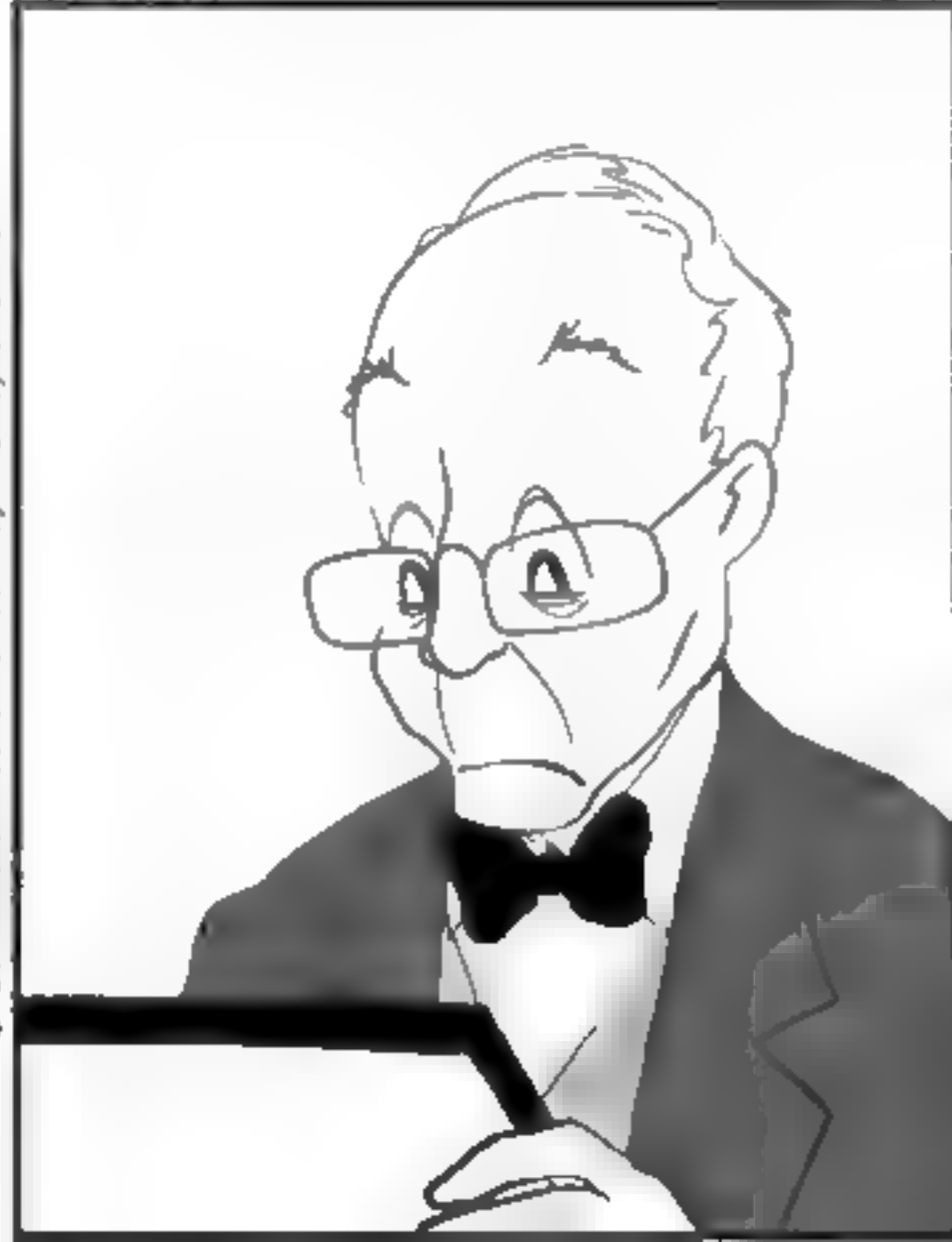
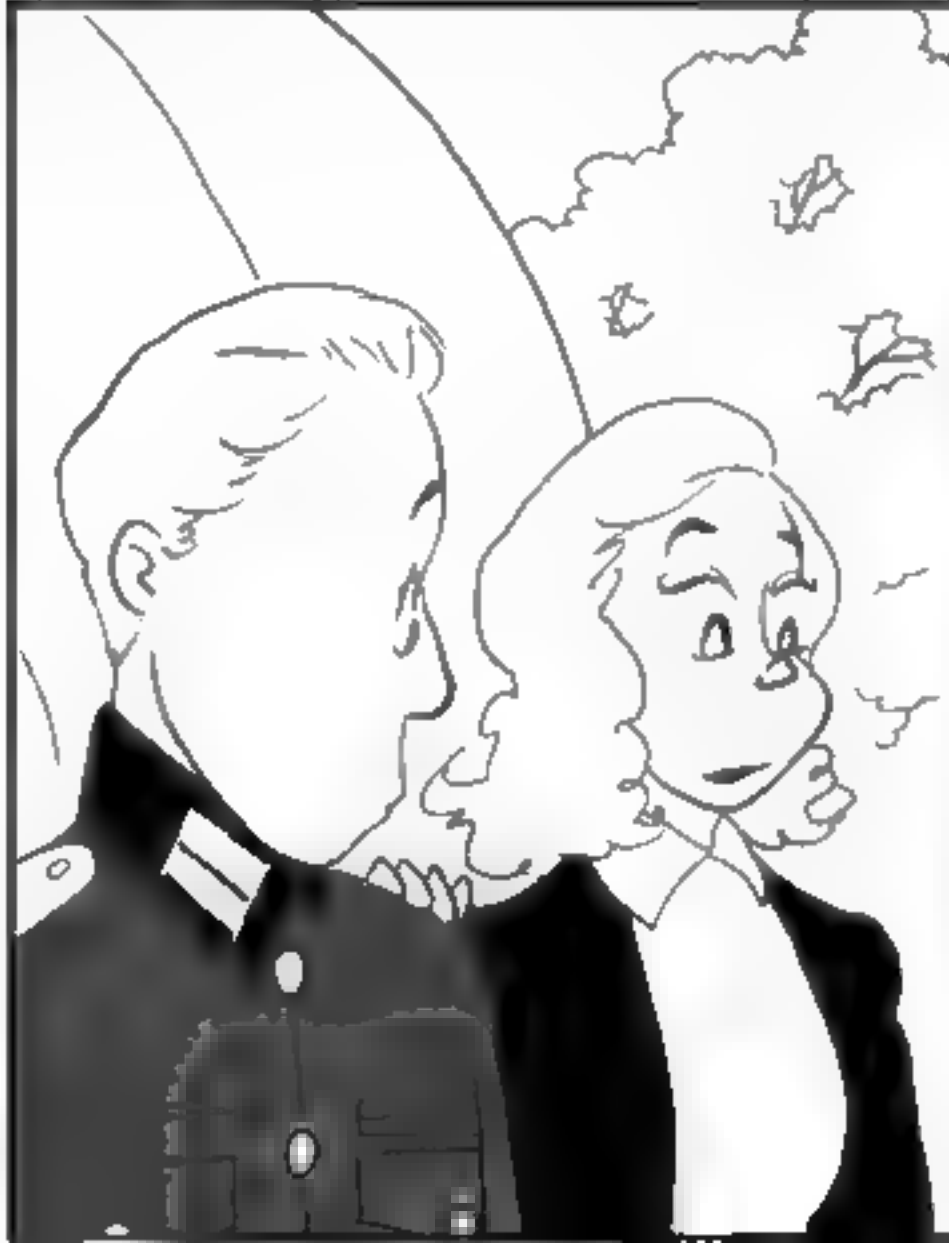
MOM, THAT'S  
THE WAY YOU  
STARED AT ME  
WHEN I WAS  
A LITTLE GIRL  
AND REFUSED  
TO DRINK MY  
MILK. IT WAS  
KIND OF FUNNY  
IN A SWEET  
WAY.

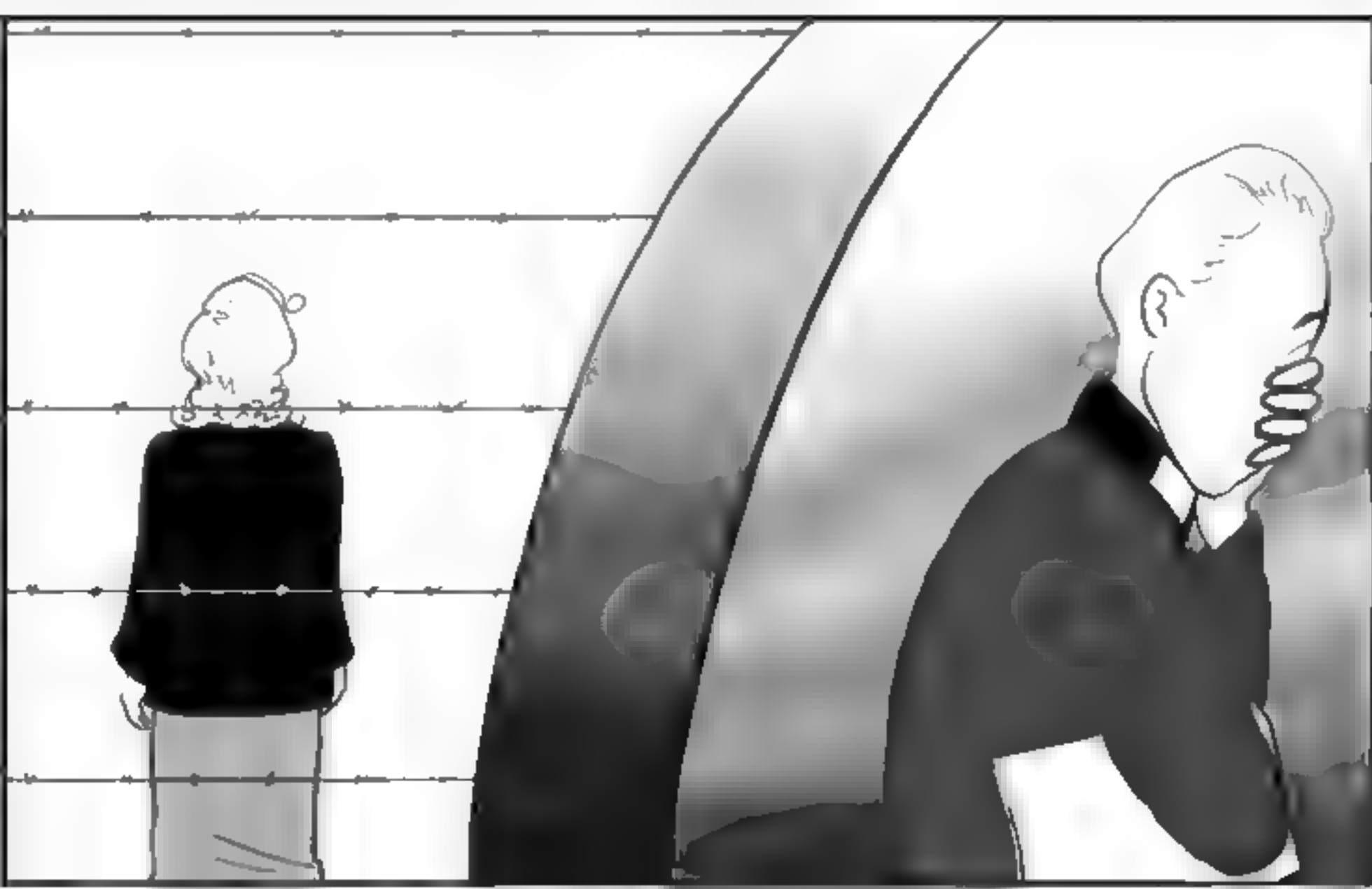
BUT YOU  
CALLED IT  
MY "REIGN  
OF TERROR  
LOOK."



I DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO HURT  
YOUR  
FEELINGS.







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MOM, ARE YOU  
STILL MAD?

FL. 757

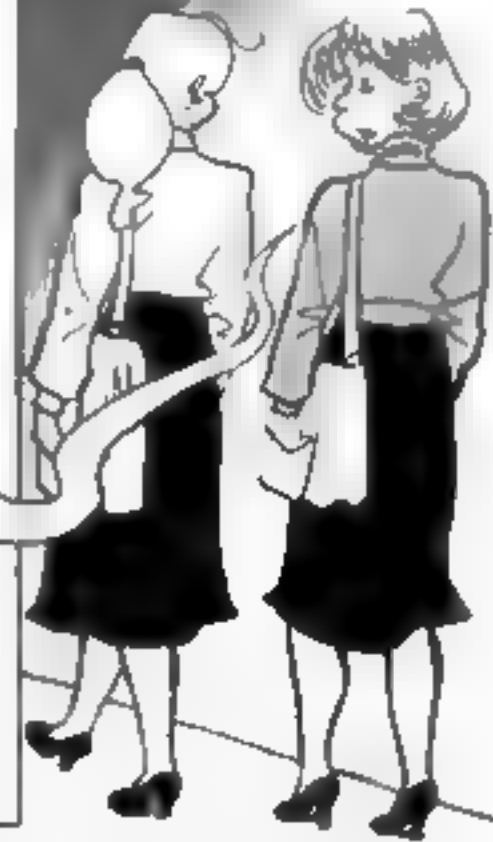
JUST RESIGNED  
AND SAD.



WELL, I TOLD HIM HE WAS  
A FOOL, THEN I KISSED  
HIM AND  
CALLED  
HIM GRAND-  
FATHER.

DATE  
C37

Oo!  
STICK  
IN THE  
KNIFE  
AND  
TWIST  
IT.



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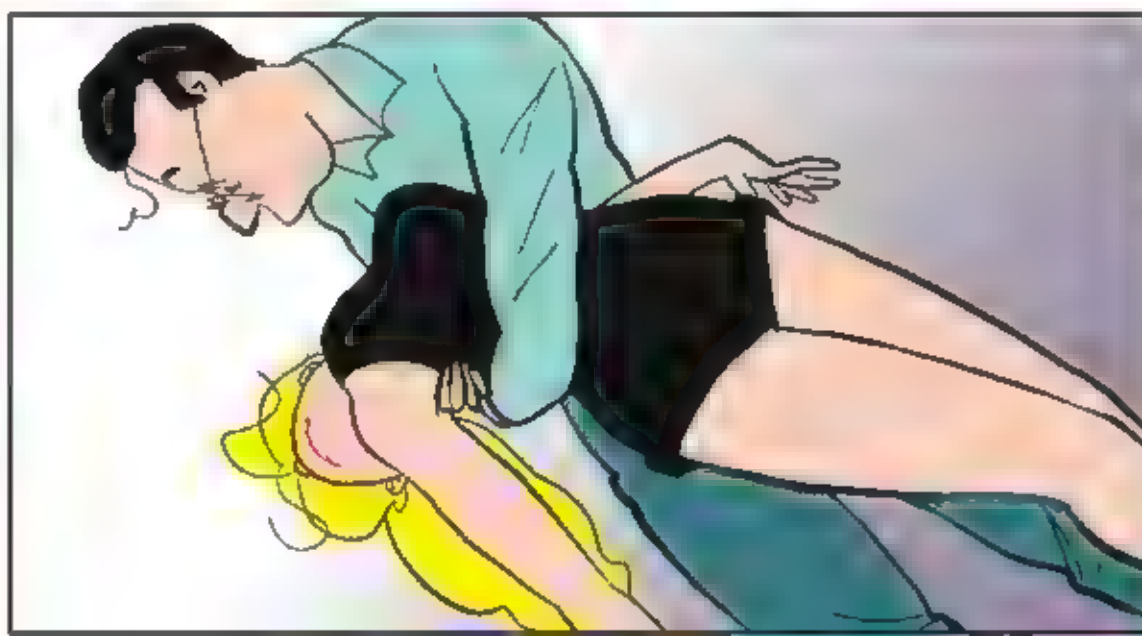
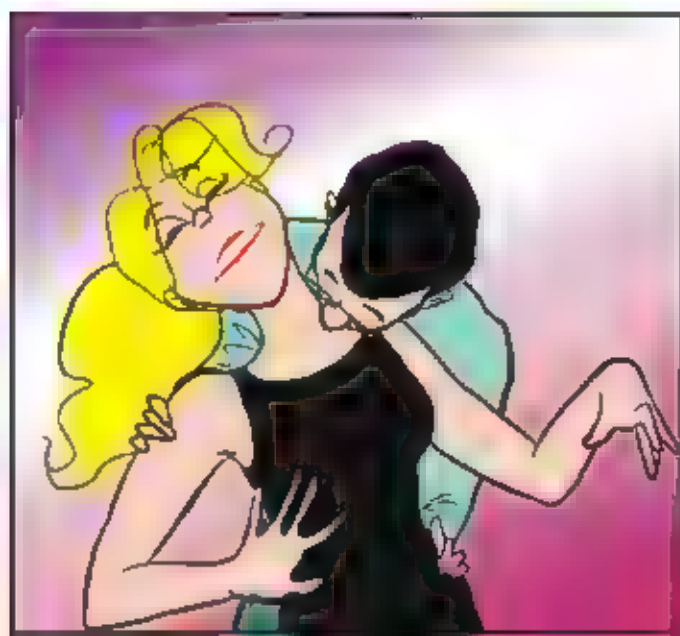
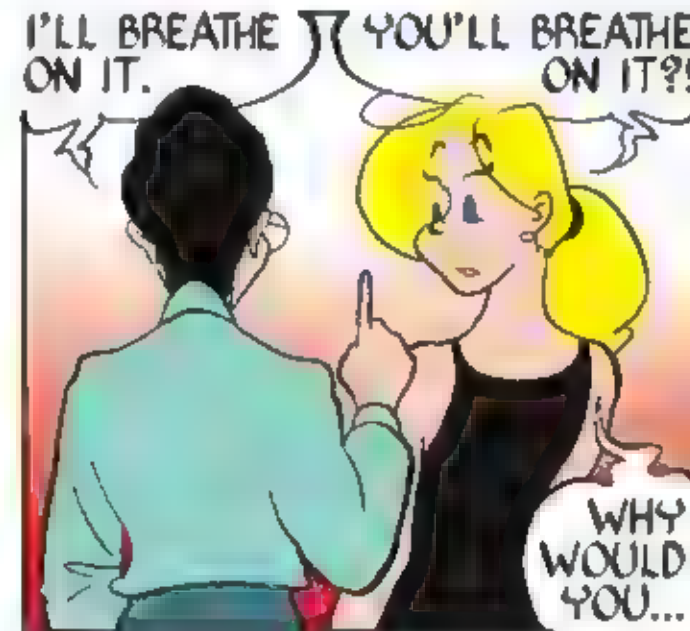
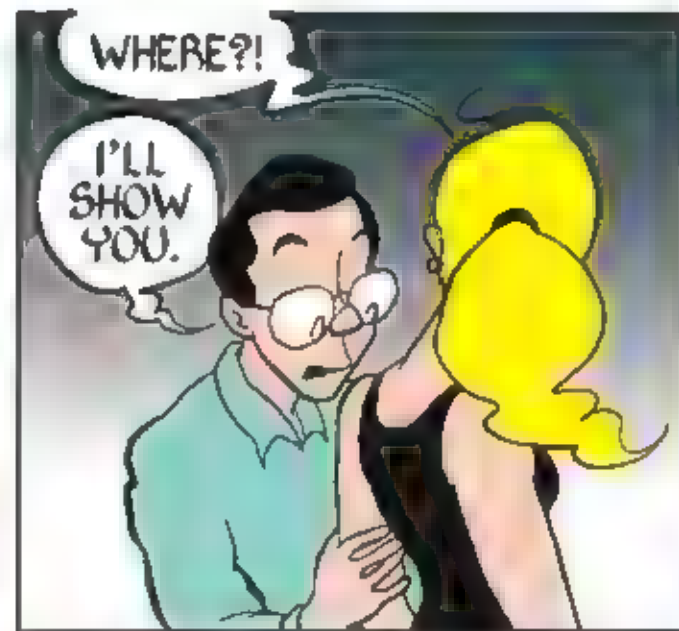
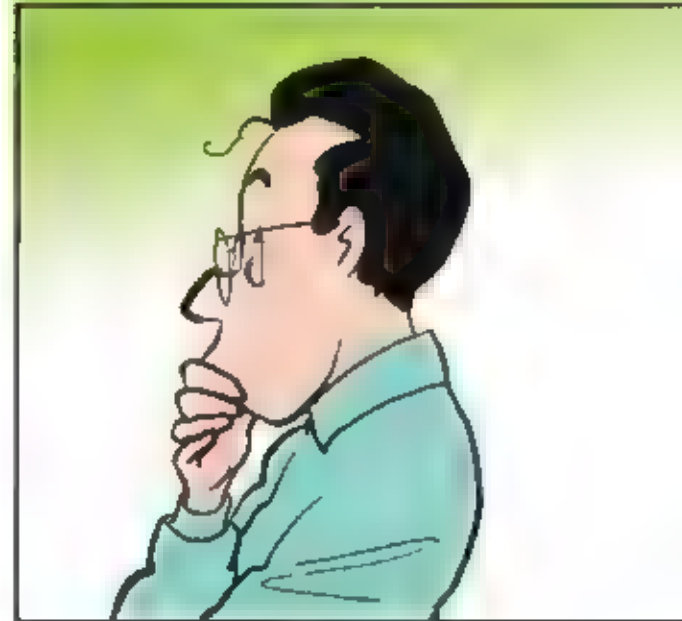
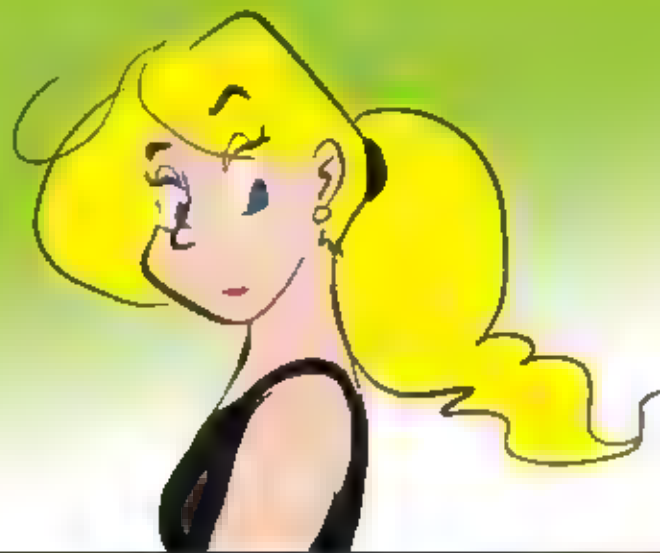
YES  
SIR,  
MAY  
I HAVE  
YOUR  
BOARDING  
PASS?



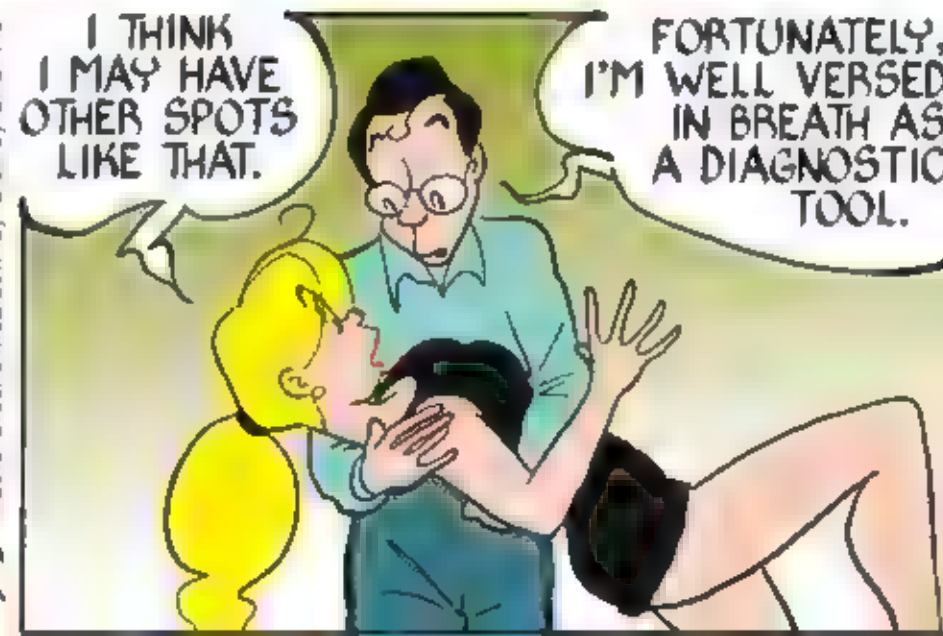




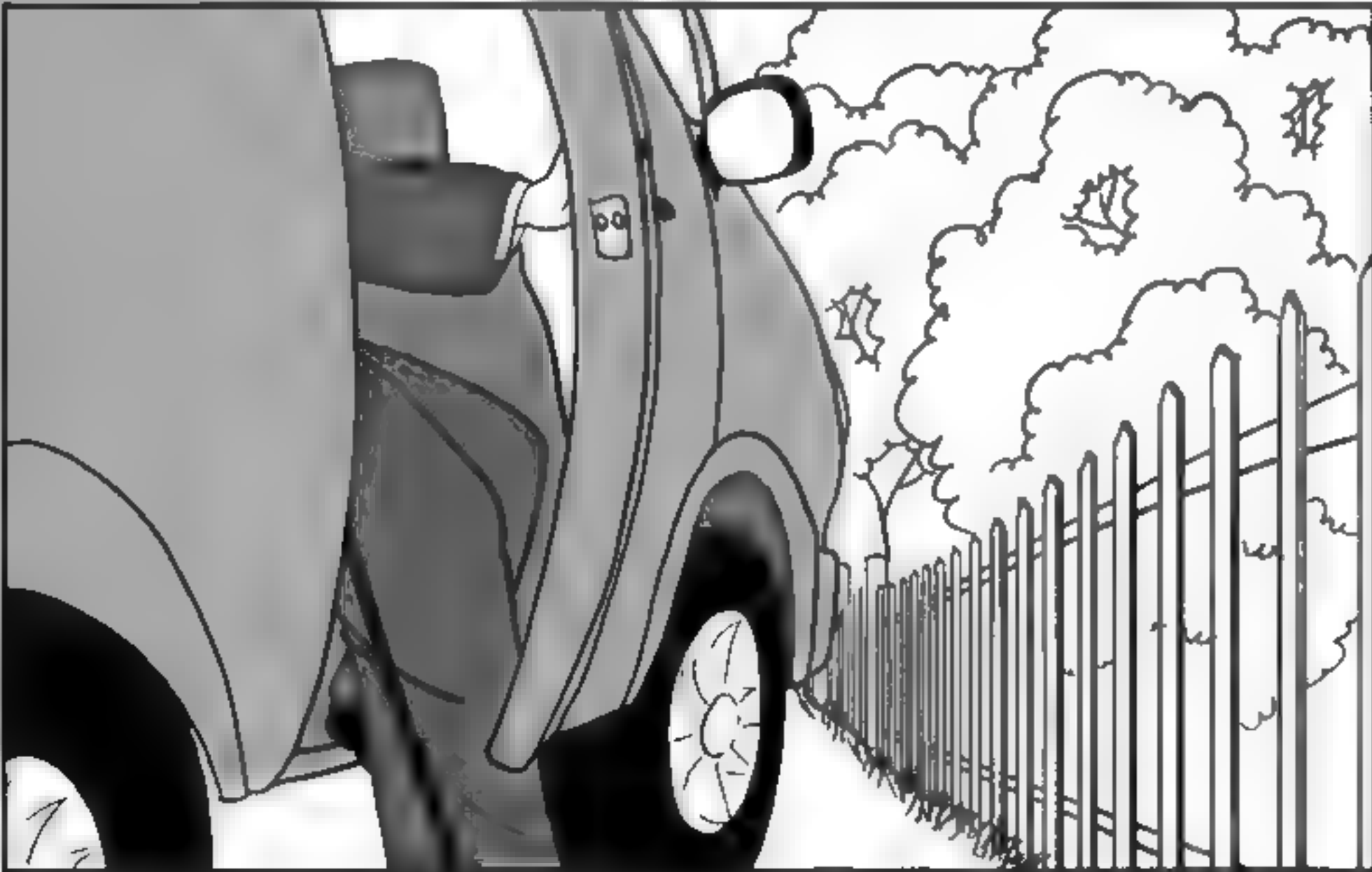
# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

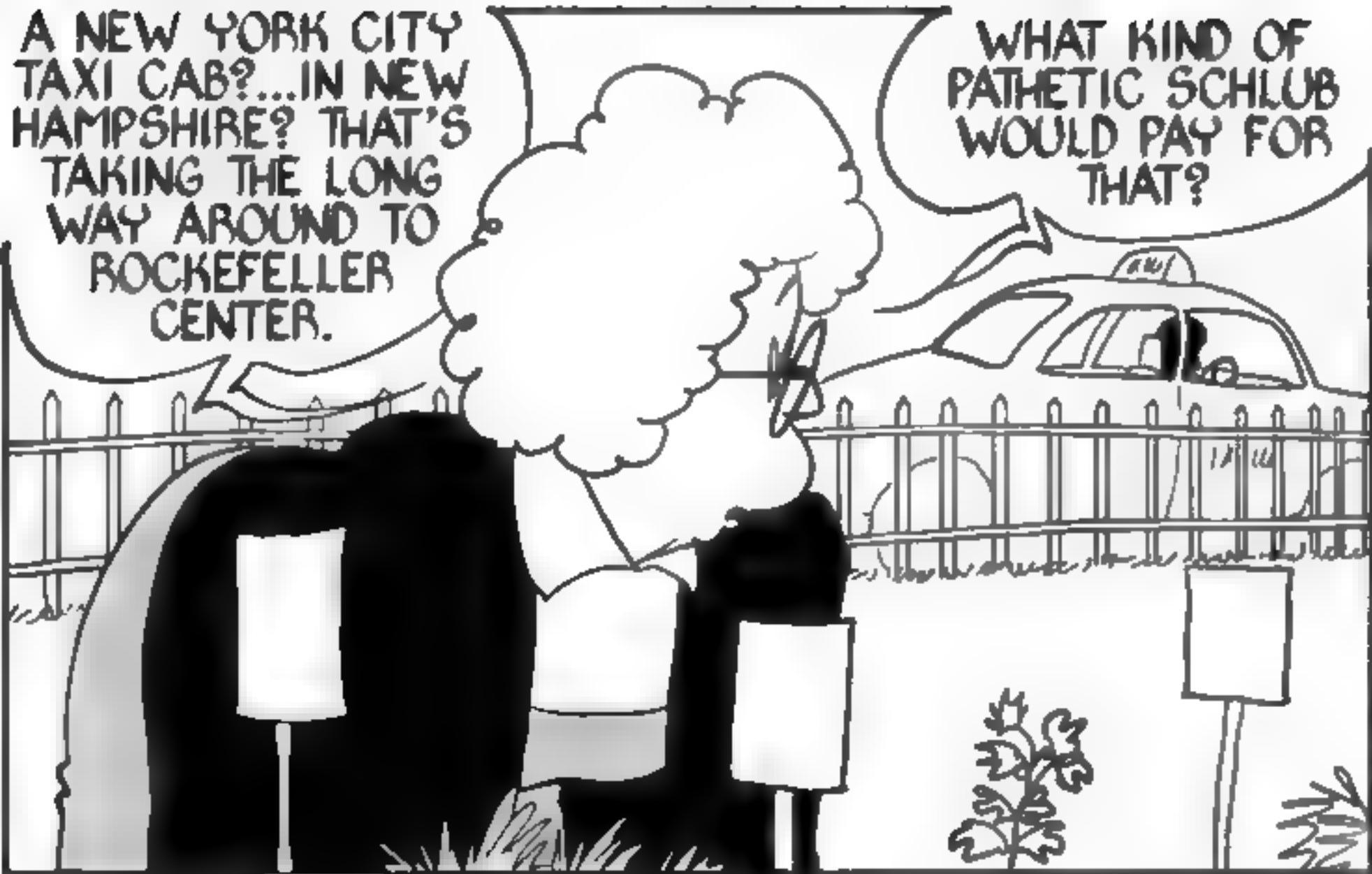


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IF YOU'RE HERE TO SEE  
MY DAUGHTER, I'M AFRAID  
SHE'S BEEN OUT OF THE  
COUNTRY. WHO SHALL I  
SAY STOPPED BY?



I'M NOT  
HERE TO SEE  
YOUR DAUGHTER. I CAME...

TO SEE  
YOU...

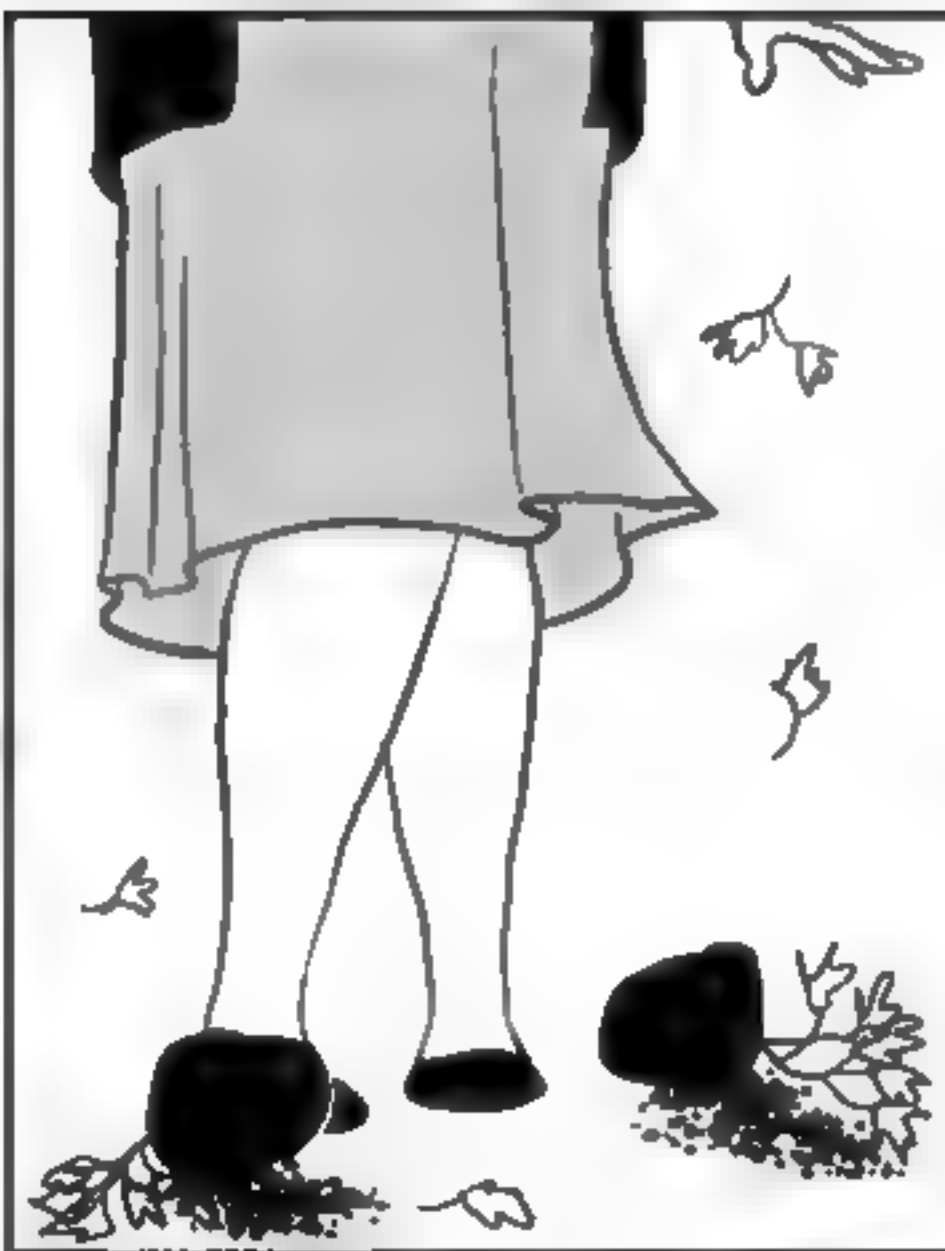
...EVA.

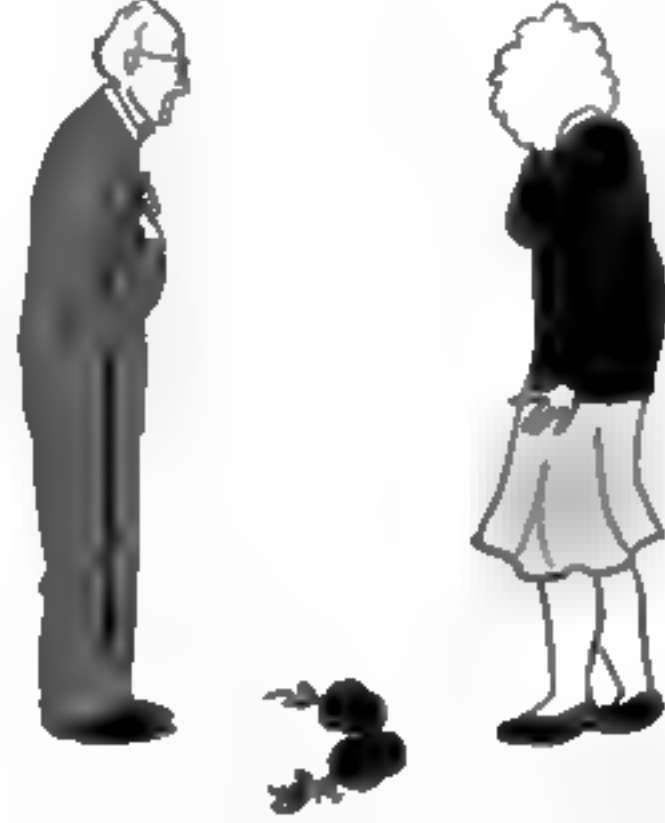


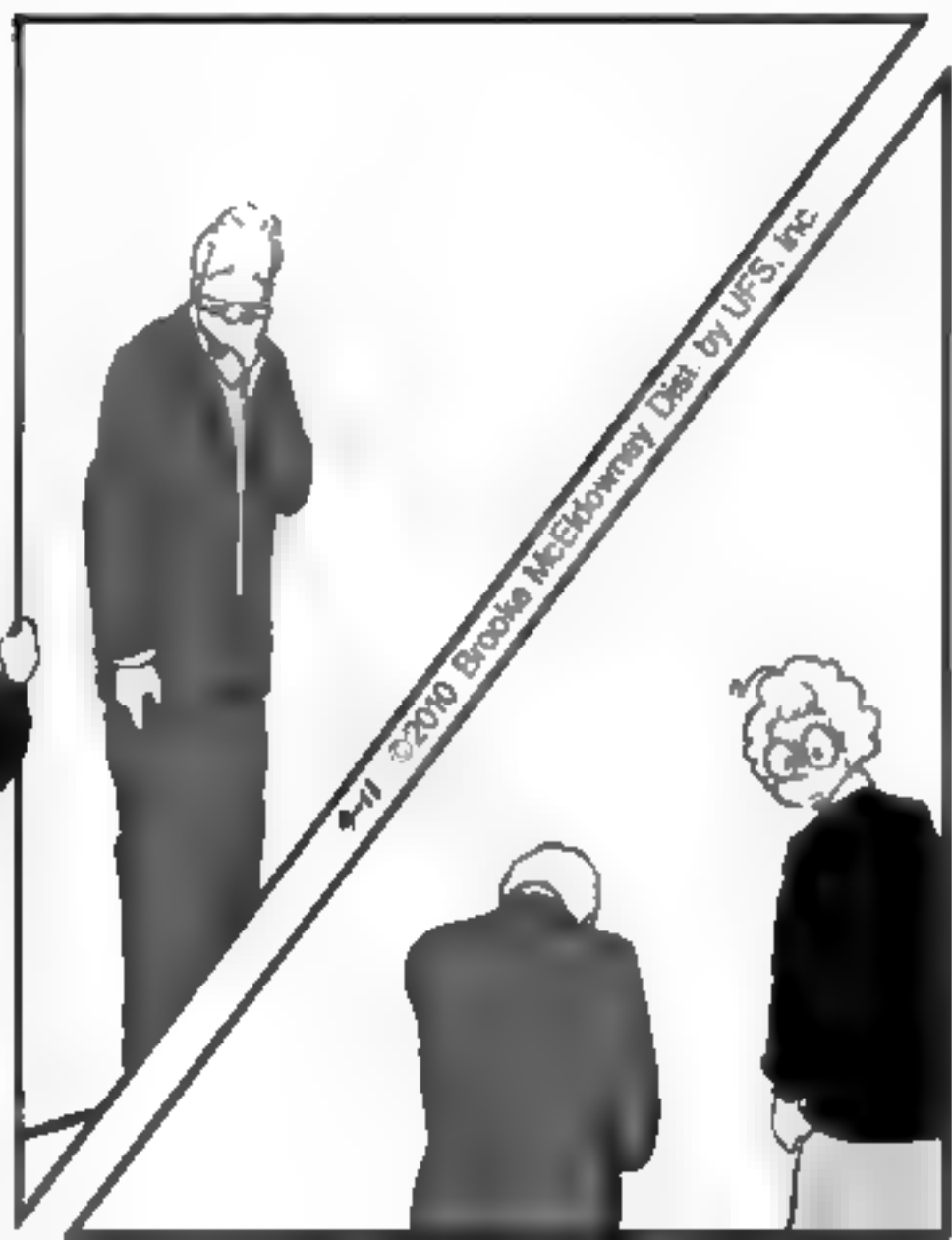
Brooke



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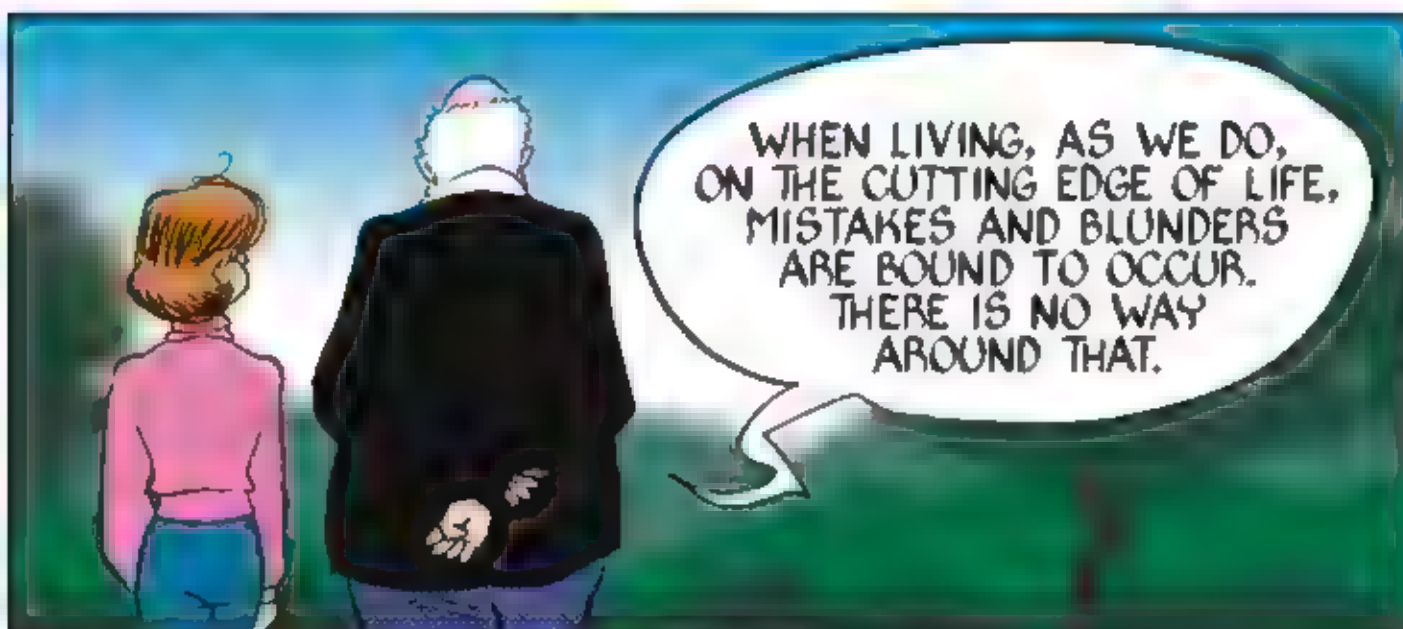
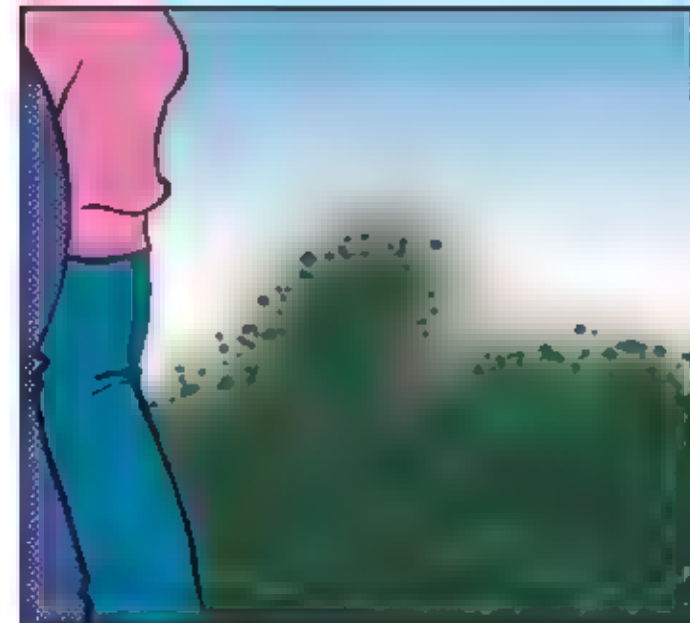


Brooke



# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

®



WHEN LIVING, AS WE DO,  
ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF LIFE,  
MISTAKES AND BLUNDERS  
ARE BOUND TO OCCUR.  
THERE IS NO WAY  
AROUND THAT.



IT IS A TEST  
OF A PERSON'S  
CHARACTER TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
AND NEVER  
TO SHY FROM  
ADMITTING  
IT.

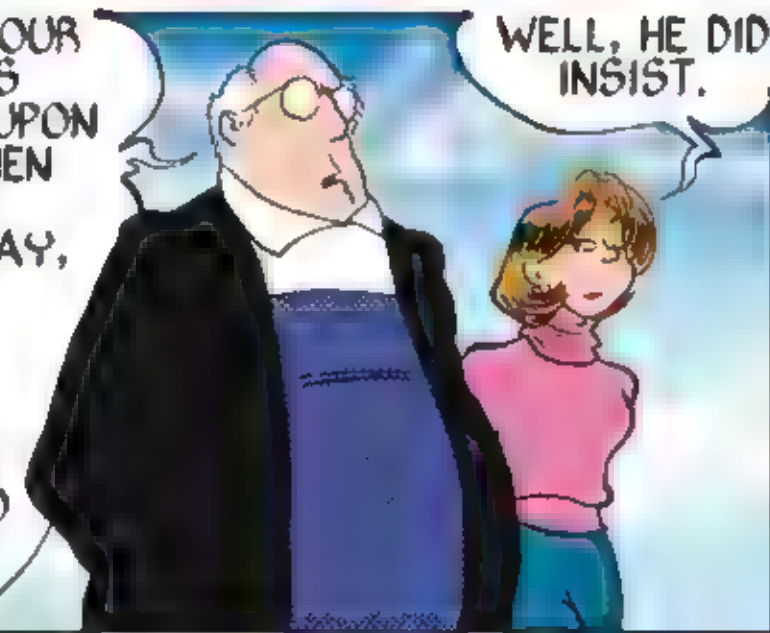


ON THESE OCCASIONS,  
IT IS GOOD TO  
RECALL THE SIGN  
THAT RESTED  
ON PRESIDENT  
HARRY  
TRUMAN'S  
DESK...  
...THE  
SIGN THAT  
READ,  
"THE BUCK  
STOPS  
HERE."



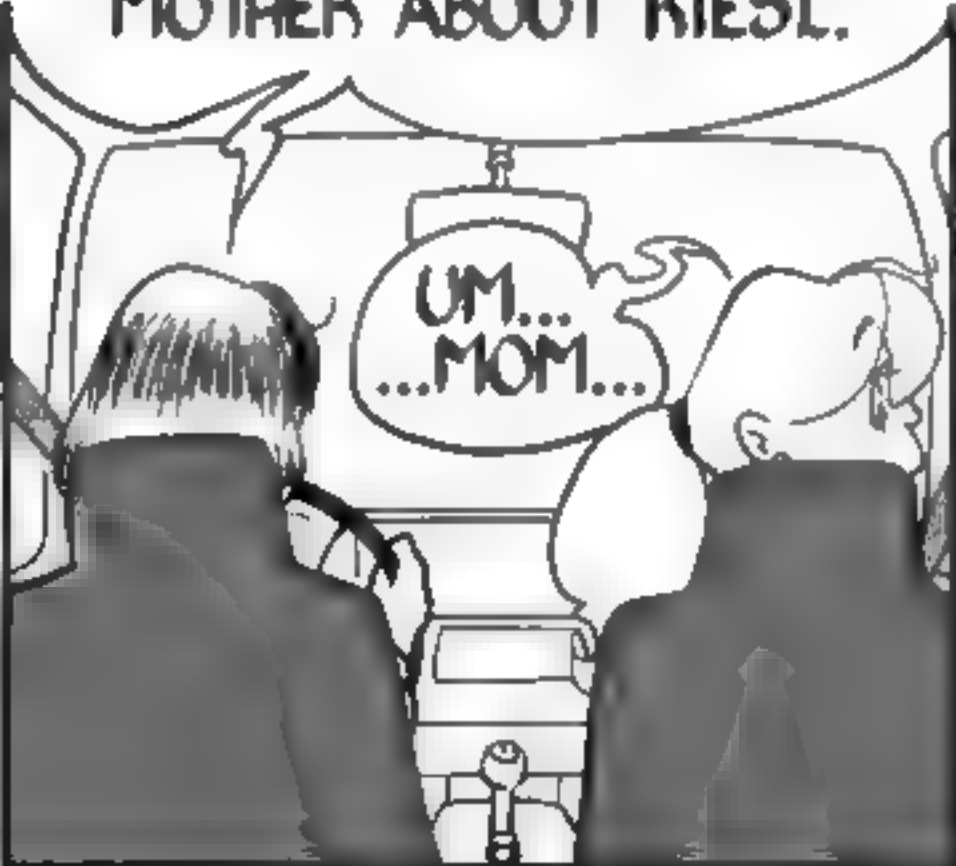
...A REMINDER TO  
ALL PEOPLE OF  
CONSCIENCE  
AND  
INTEGRITY.

WITH THOSE FOUR  
SIMPLE WORDS  
EMBLAZONED UPON  
MY SOUL...WHEN  
A COMPLAINT  
COMES MY WAY,  
I SQUARE MY  
SHOULDERS,  
RAISING  
MY VOICE SO  
THAT ALL MAY  
HEAR ME...AND  
BLAME HARRY  
TRUMAN.



WELL, HE DID  
INSIST.

I SWEAR...AN INTERMINABLE  
TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT...  
...INNUMERABLE AIRPORT  
DELAYS...AND I STILL CAN'T  
SORT OUT WHAT TO TELL  
MOTHER ABOUT KIESL.









I DON'T KNOW IF THIS  
IS RIGHT OR GOOD OR  
WISE  
HAVING  
KIESL  
IN MY  
LIFE  
AFTER  
ALL  
THESE  
YEARS.



MOTHER, THE MAN IS ARRESTED  
IN TIME. HE'S TOTALLY POSSESSED  
BY A BLINDING INFATUATION  
FOR YOU WHEN YOU WERE  
YOUNG AND FETCHING.  
HIS FLAT IN VIENNA  
IS NOTHING  
SHORT OF  
A SHRINE  
TO YOU.



*Brooke*



ALL RIGHT, I'LL PUT  
THAT IN THE PLUS  
COLUMN.

THAT'S  
PRETTY MUCH  
WHAT I'D DO.



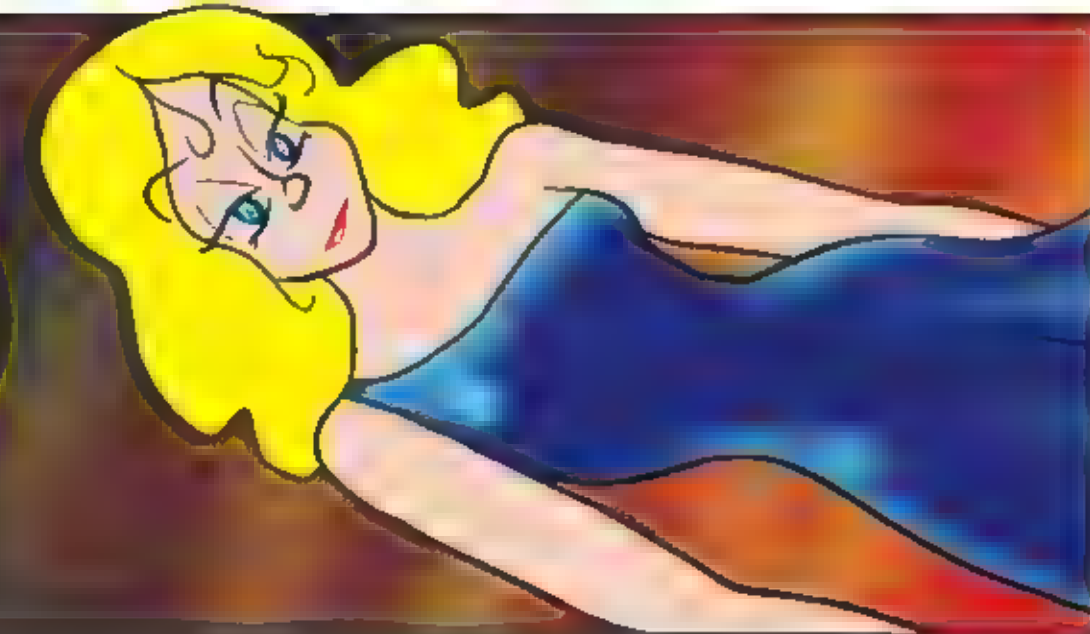


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THE TRUTH IS, I MARRIED A PRETTY, YOUNG GIRL YEARS AGO, AND SO POTENT WAS HER HOLD ON ME THAT I NEVER COULD WREST MYSELF LOOSE OF HER. IT WASN'T A RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE OR A CIVIL ONE...IT WAS A BOND THAT ROOTED IN MY HEART AND REMAINED



THERE,  
GROWING  
AND  
POSSES-  
SING  
ME.



WHERE  
DID YOU  
MARRY HER?

AT A  
P.O.W. CAMP  
IN ENGLAND  
IN 1944.

I FELL IN  
LOVE AND MADE  
HER MY FIANCEE  
AND MARRIED HER  
ALL DURING THE  
FIRST SONG  
SHE SANG FOR  
THE PRISONERS.



DON'T  
YOU THINK  
YOU MIGHT HAVE  
LET HER IN ON  
THE SECRET?

AT THE  
TIME I FELT  
I DAREN'T.  
BUT NOW...

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...I DO.

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INTERESTING STORIES ARE  
NEVER ABOUT PEOPLE WHO  
MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS.  
GRAN AND PETER MADE ALL  
THE WRONG DECISIONS, AND  
SPENT THEIR LIVES APART,  
IN LOVE, LOSS AND REGRET.

...THEY  
BECAME  
INTERESTING.  
THEY  
BECAME...



IF I CAN INTERRUPT FOR A  
SECOND... WILL YOU BE MINE  
FOREVER, SHARE MY BED  
AND BEAR MY CHILDREN,  
LOVE, HONOR AND ABIDE  
WITH ME TILL DEATH US  
DO PART...

...AND  
SO  
FORTH?



*Brake*



9-22 20th Brake

I DON'T WANT  
US TO BECOME  
INTERESTING.



THE PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE  
IS NOT THE ISSUE THAT  
CHANGES THE  
COURSE OF  
TWO LIVES.  
IT'S THE  
ANSWER.

AND DO  
YOU HAVE  
AN ANSWER?



I'VE  
ALWAYS  
KNOWN WHAT  
MY ANSWER  
WILL BE.

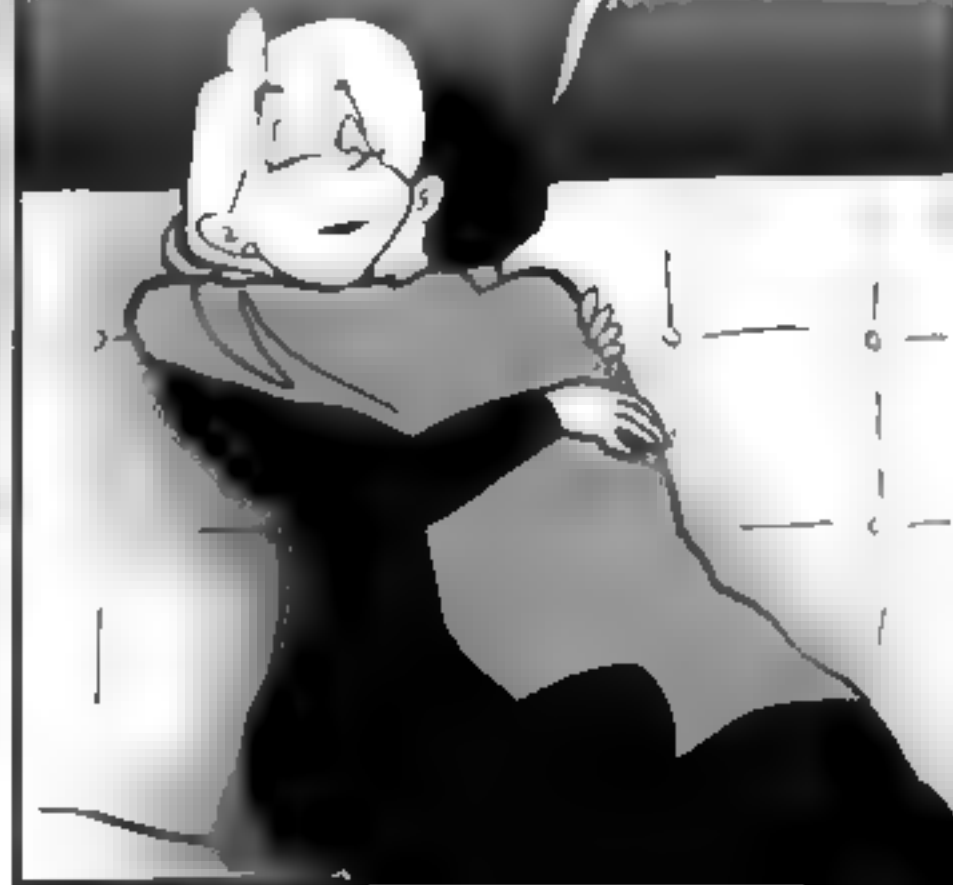
I...  
...I LOVE  
YOU.



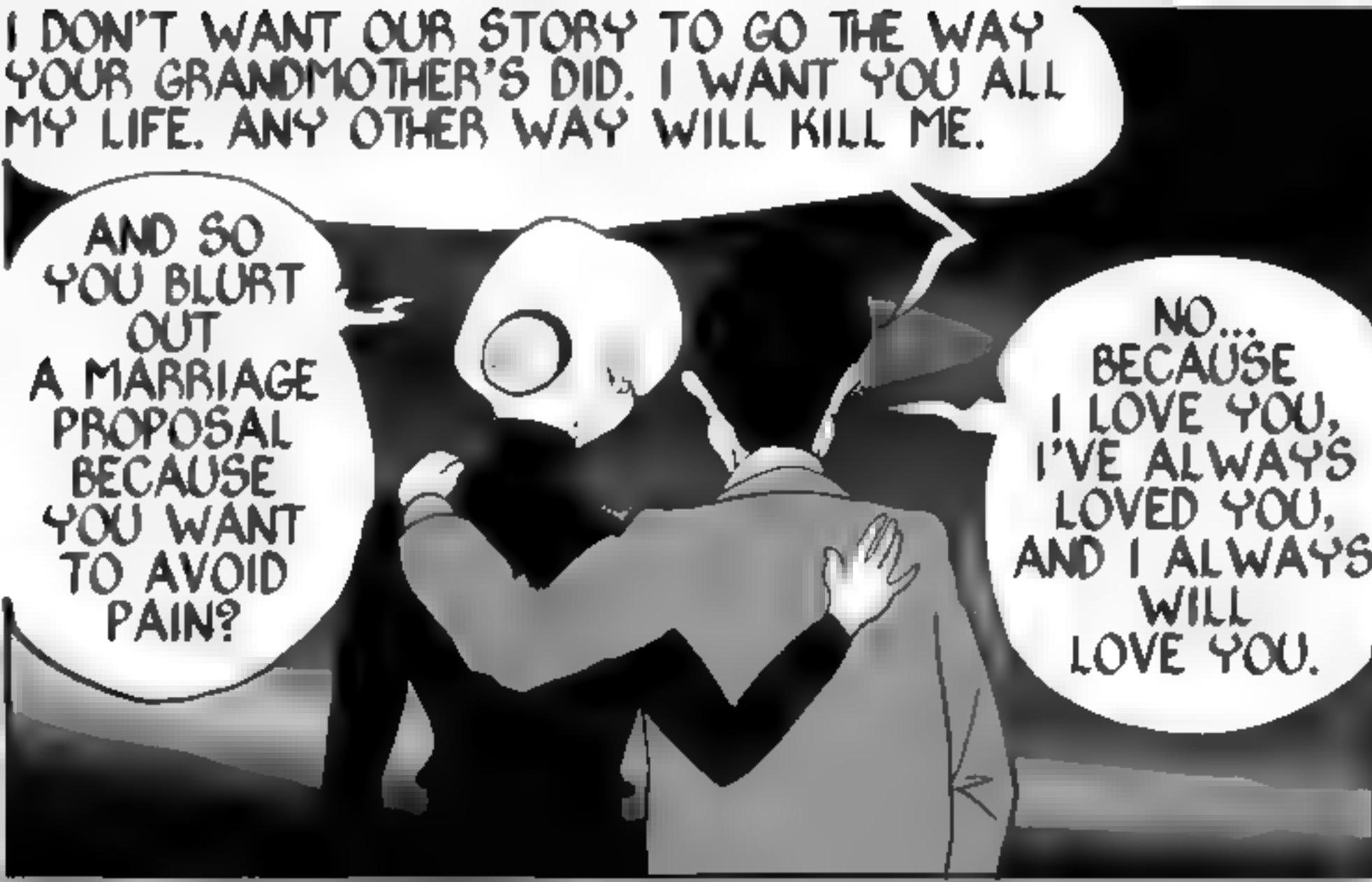
AND ONE DAY I'LL GIVE  
YOU MY ANSWER...  
...BUT NOT TODAY.

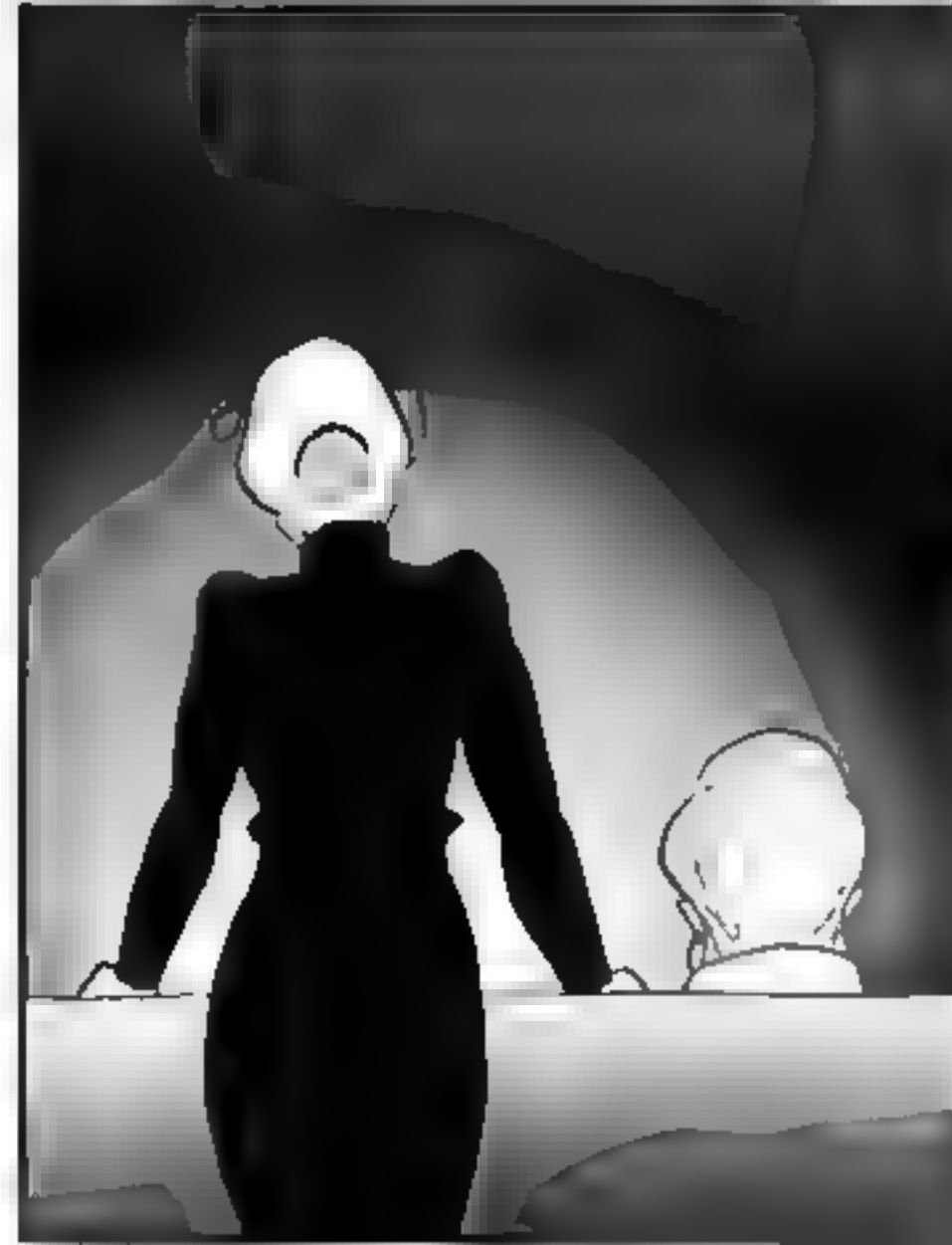


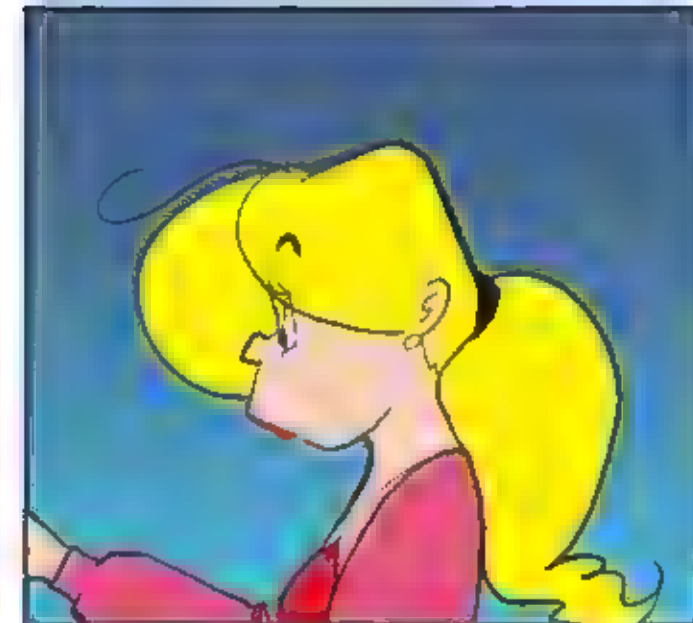
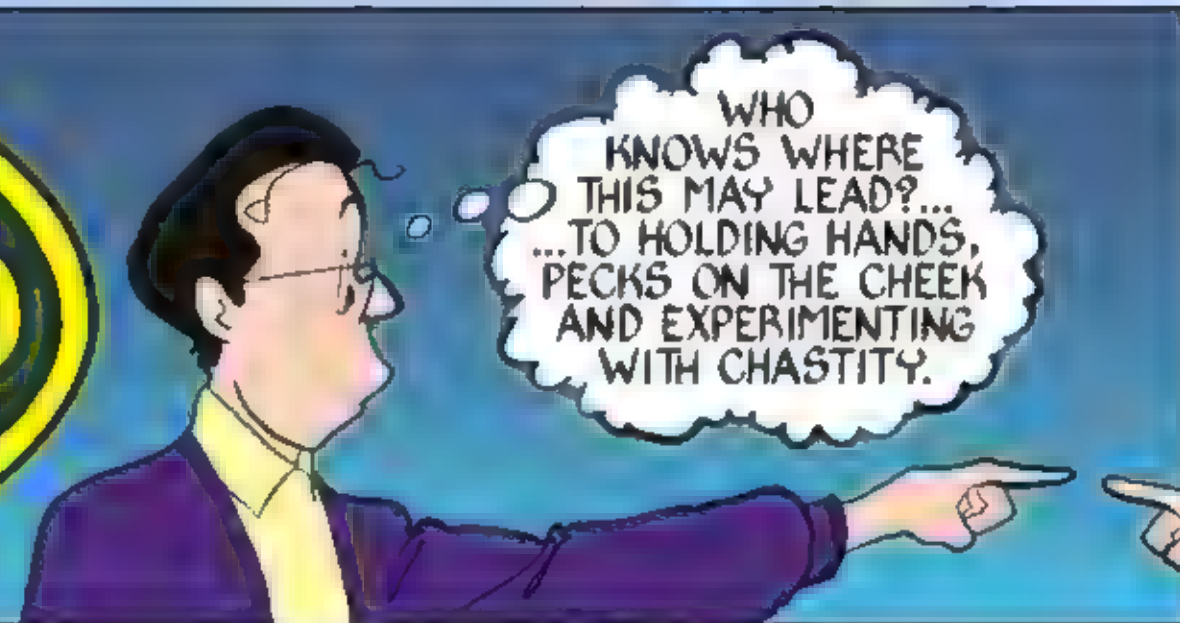
I REALLY REALLY  
REALLY  
REALLY LOVE YOU!



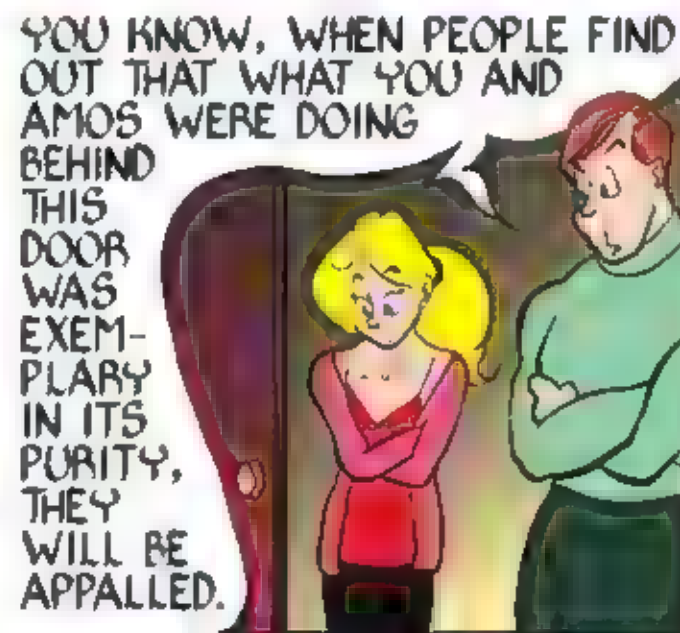
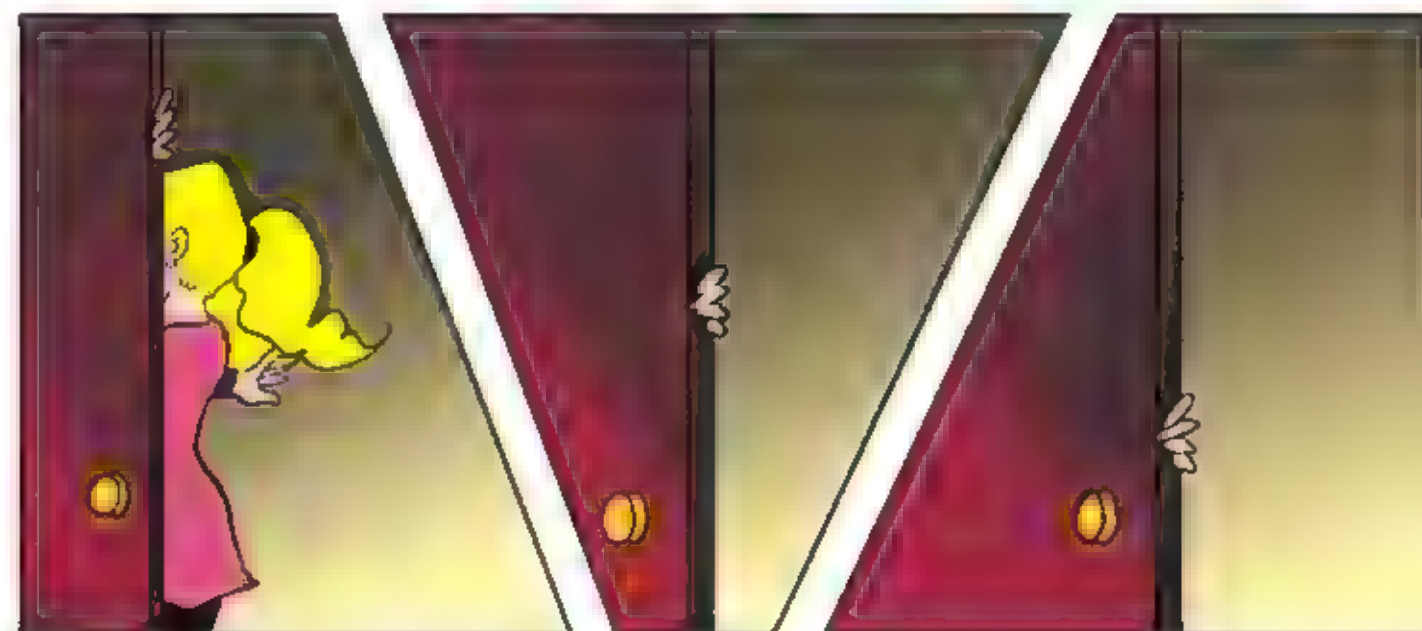
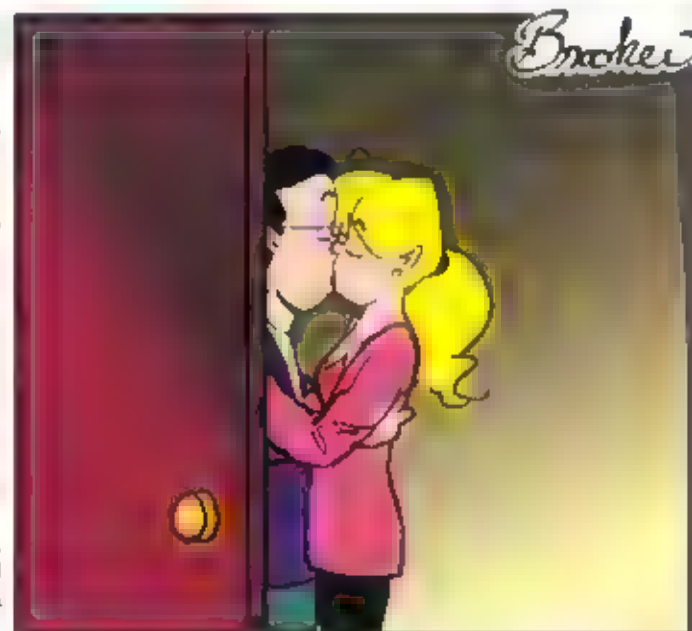








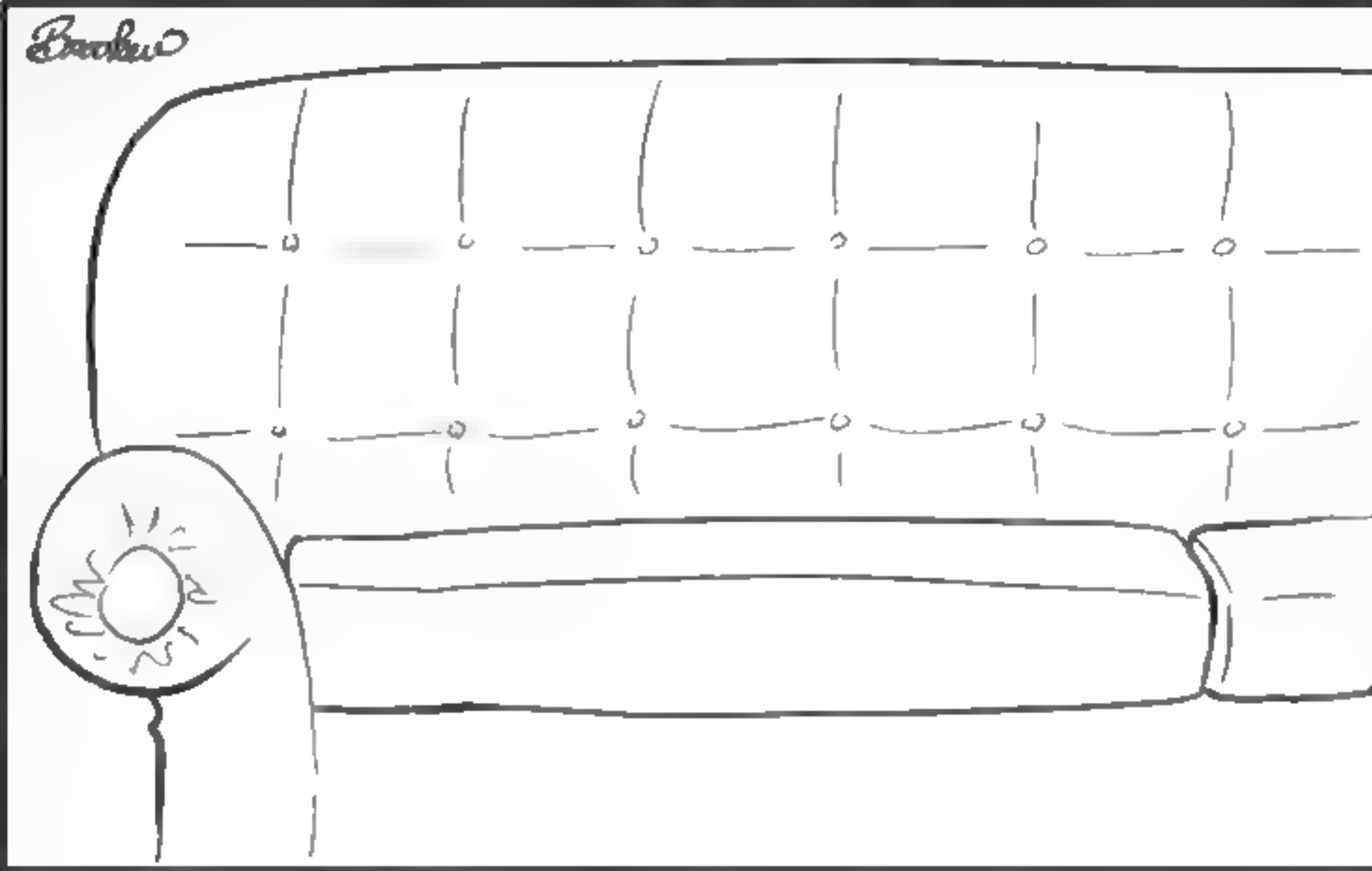
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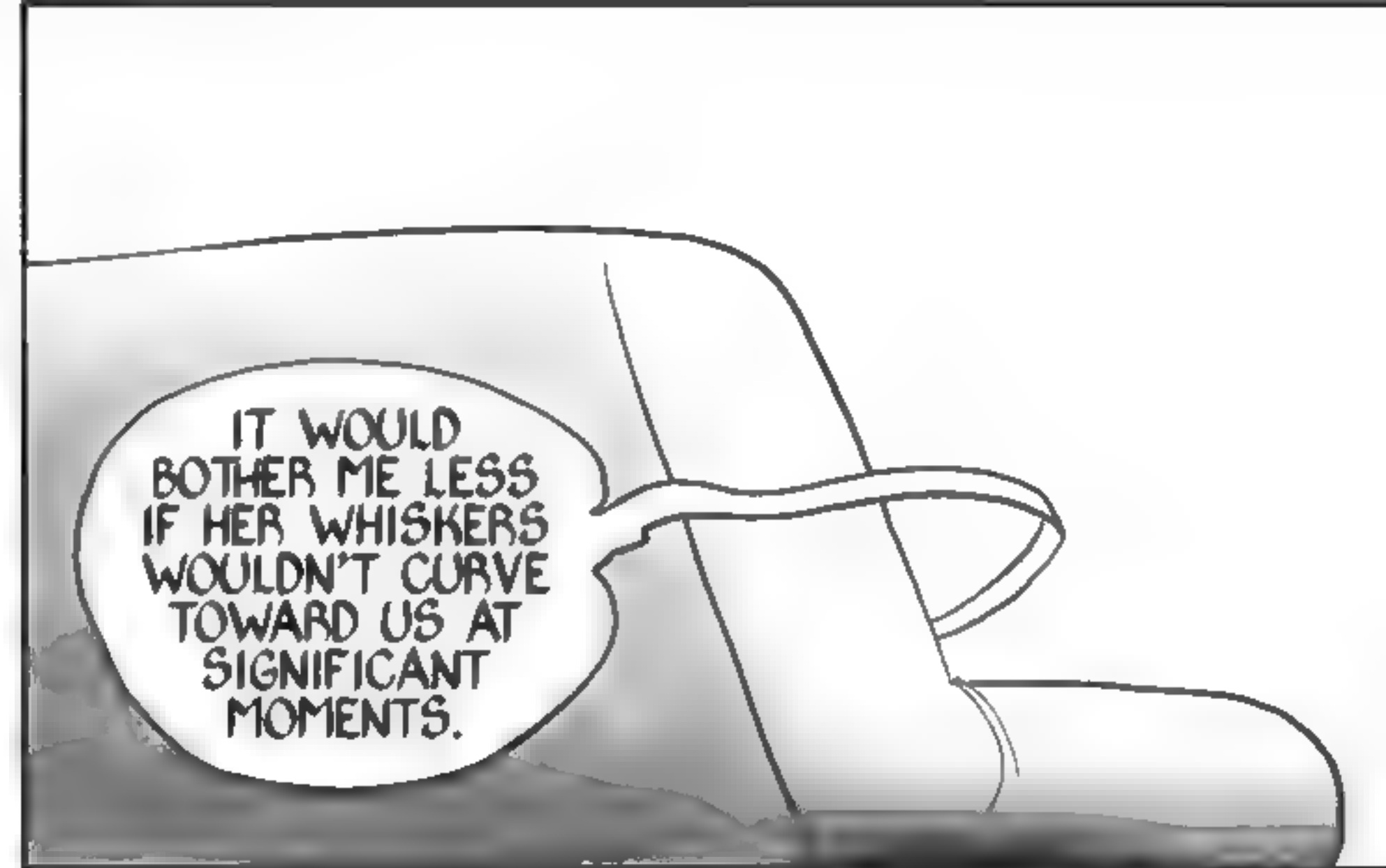
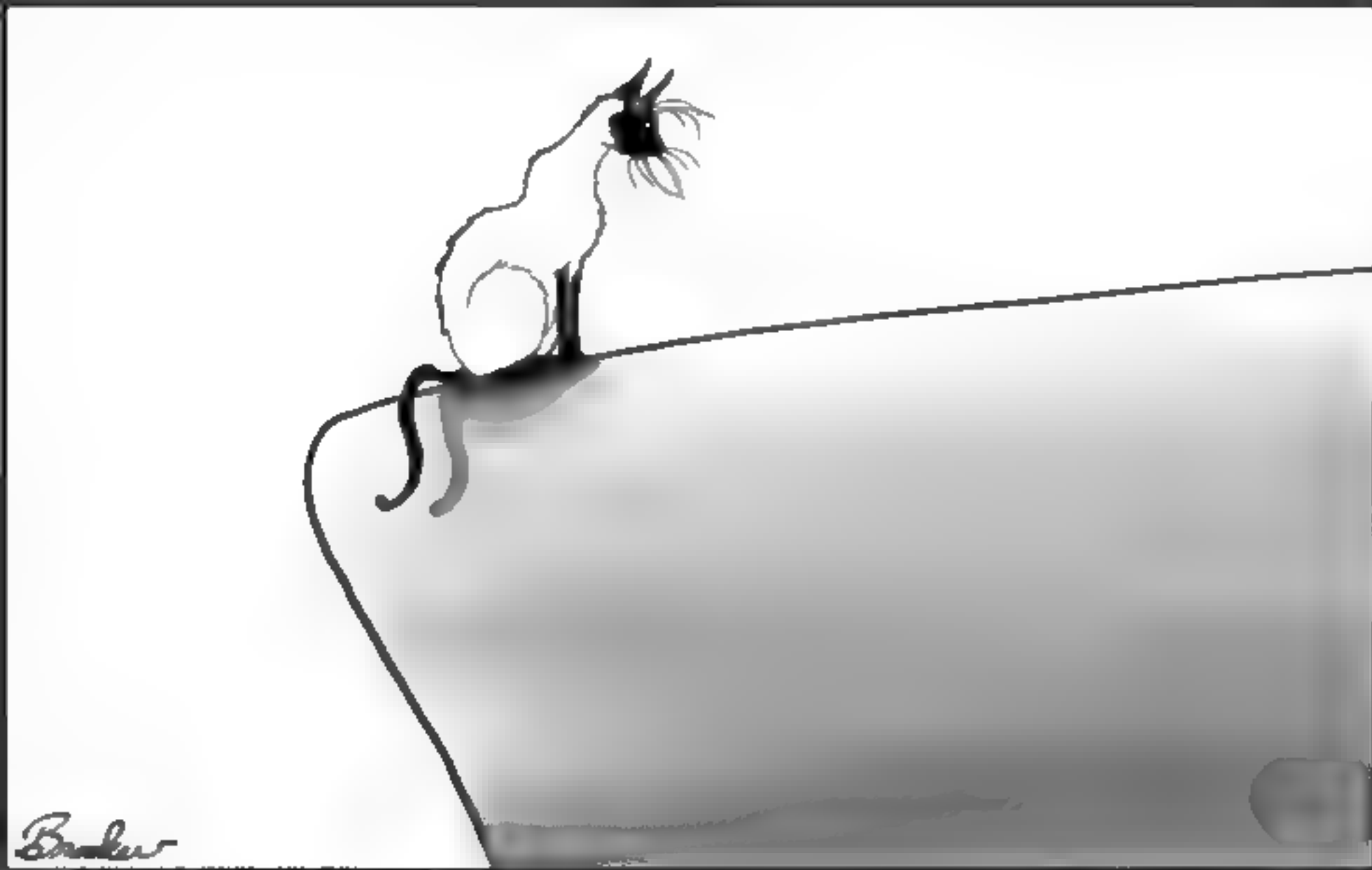


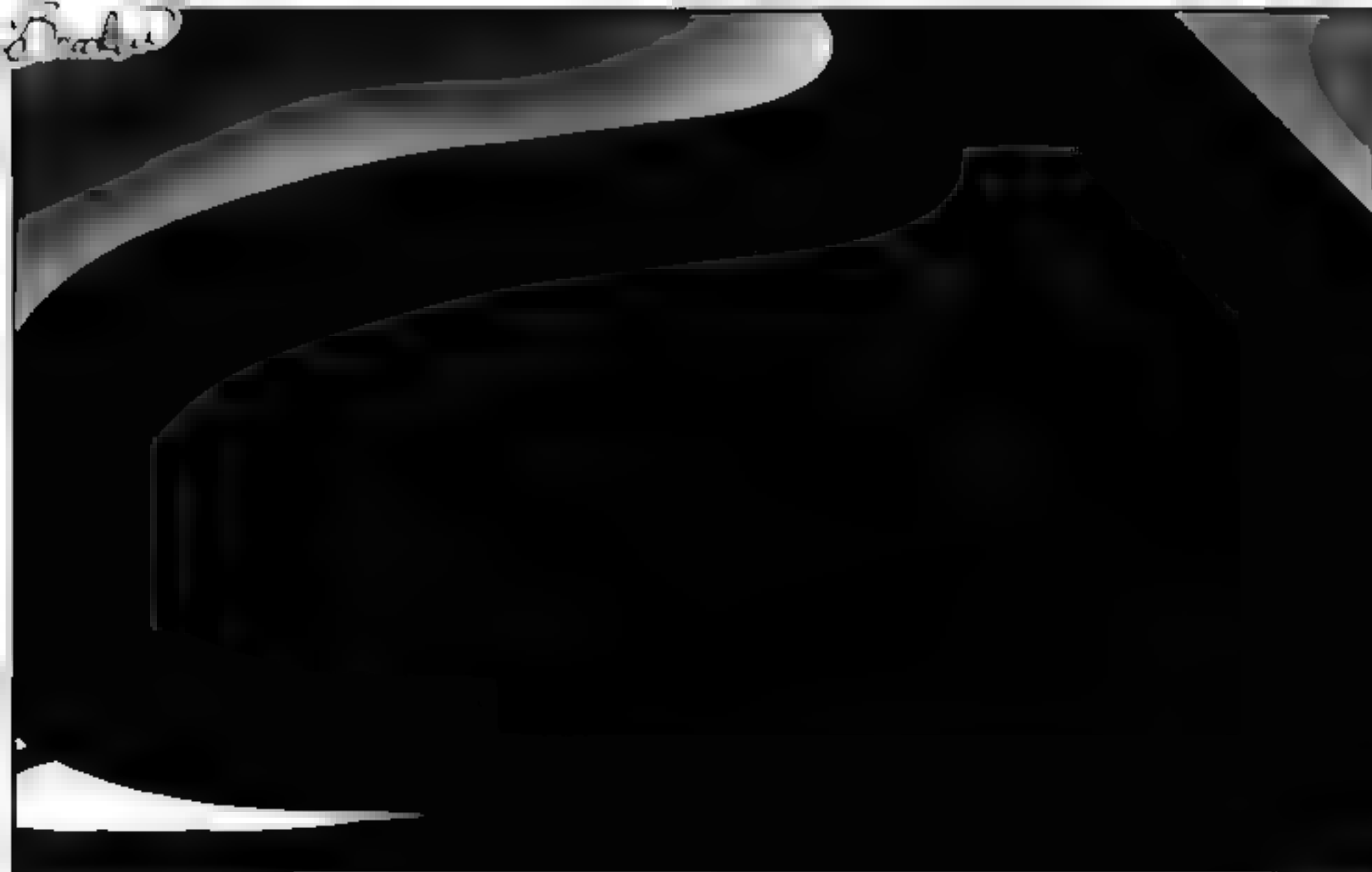










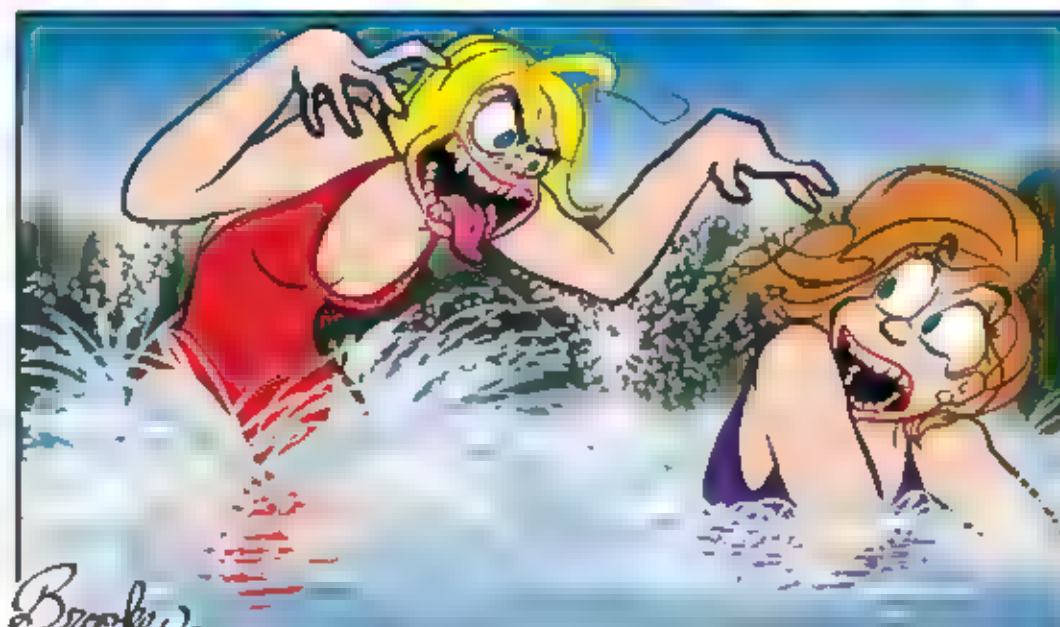
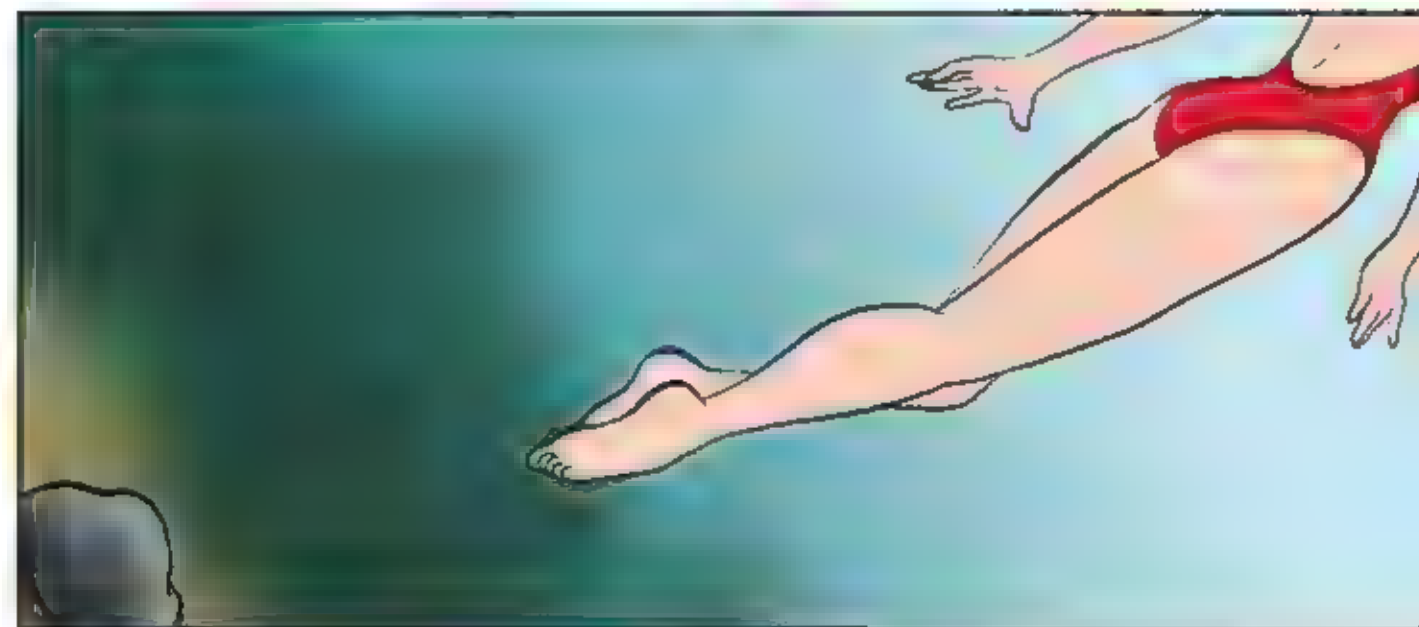
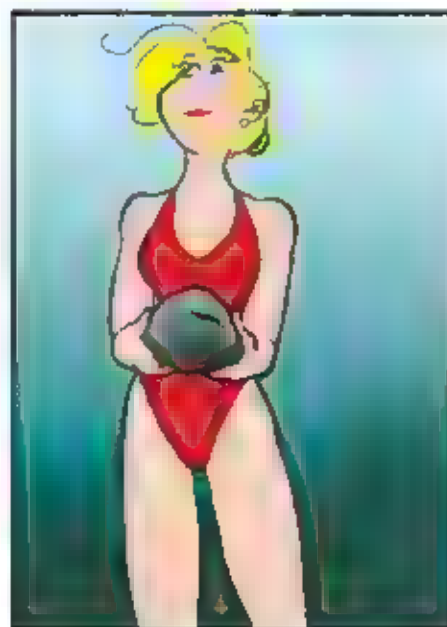






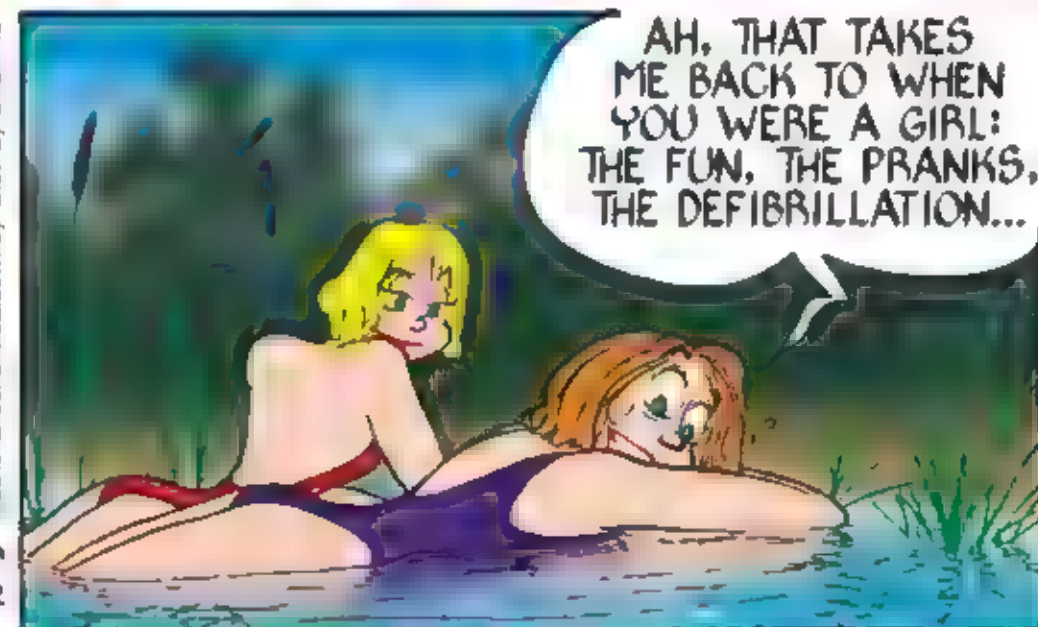


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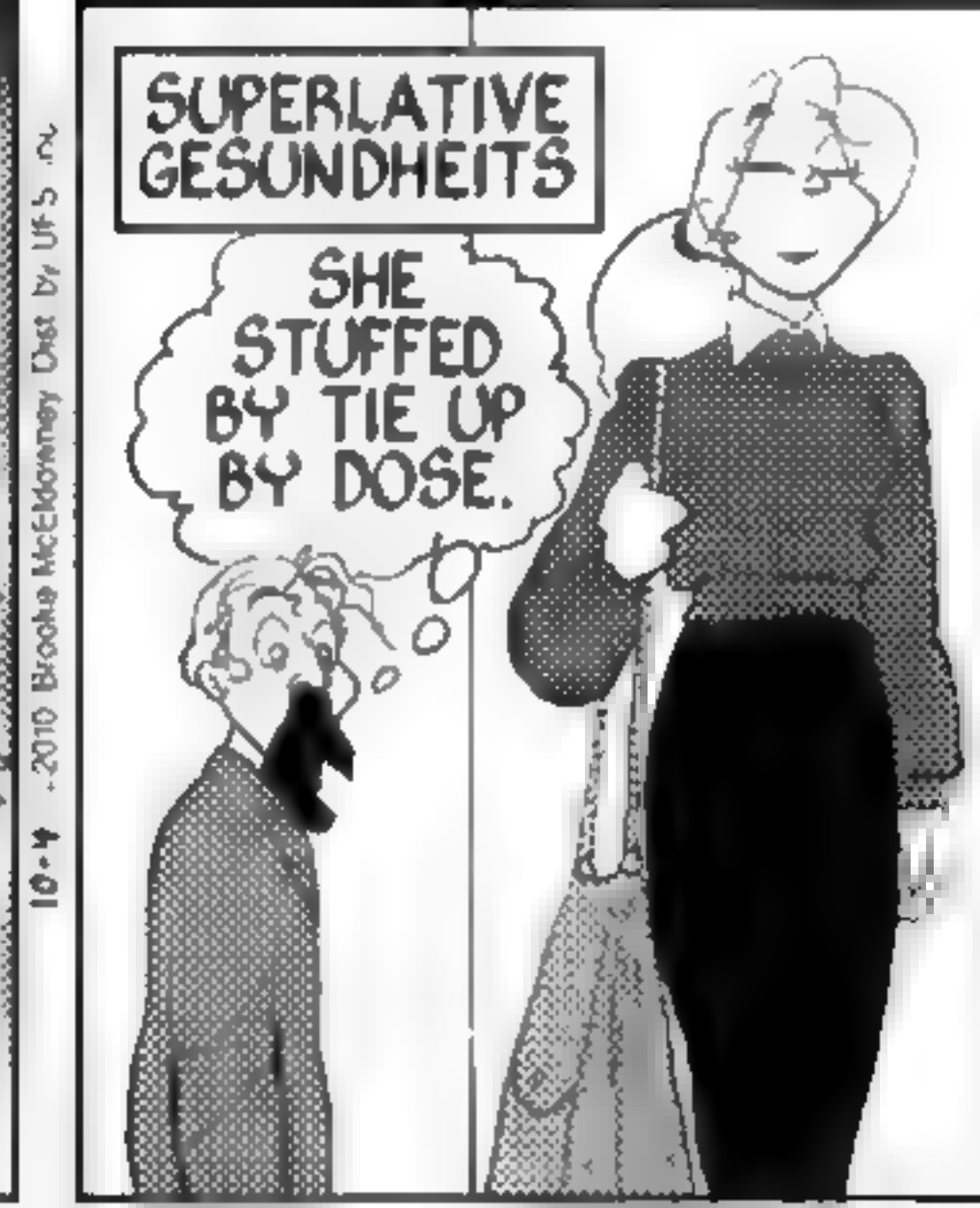
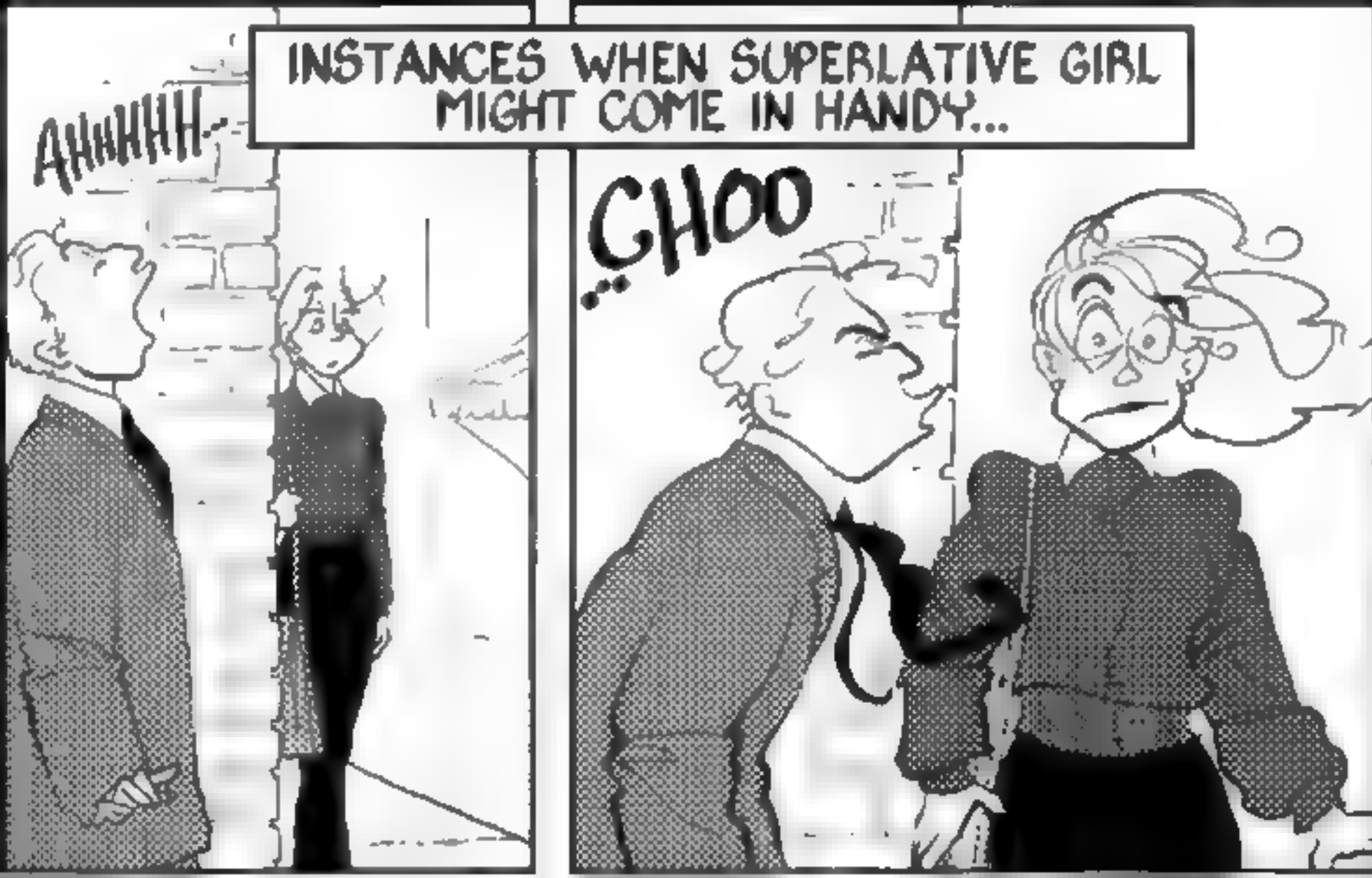


Brooke

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AH, THAT TAKES ME BACK TO WHEN YOU WERE A GIRL: THE FUN, THE PRANKS, THE DEFIBRILLATION...





INSTANCES  
WHEN  
SUPERLATIVE  
GIRL  
MIGHT  
COME IN  
HANDY...



Brooke



SUPERLATIVE  
BELLY  
WHOPPERS



INSTANCES WHEN  
SUPERLATIVE GIRL  
WOULD COME IN  
HANDY...

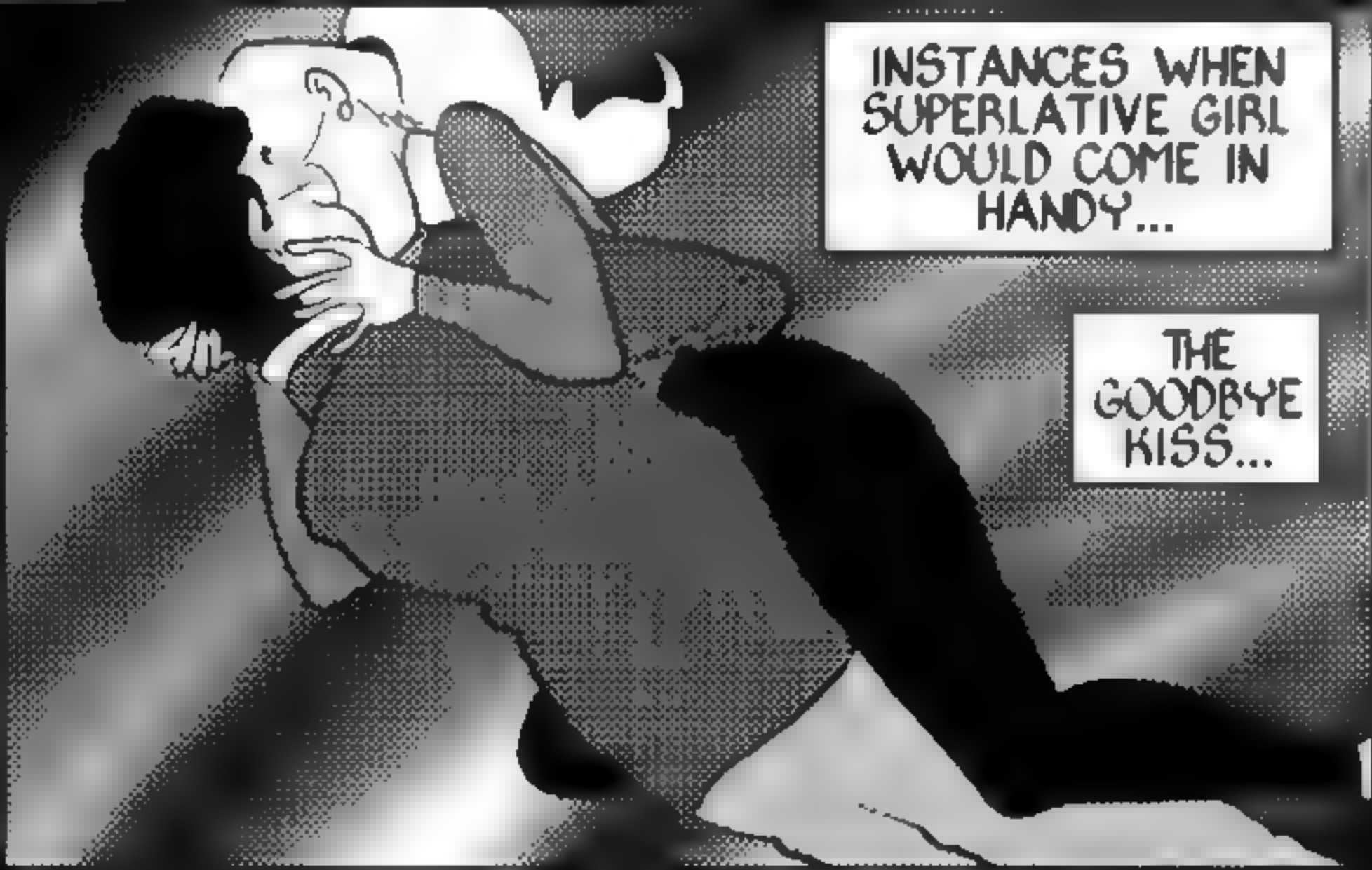
NOT MISSING  
SUPERLATIVE  
REFLECTIONS  
IN SHOP  
WINDOWS

INSTANCES WHEN  
SUPERLATIVE GIRL  
WOULD COME IN  
HANDY...

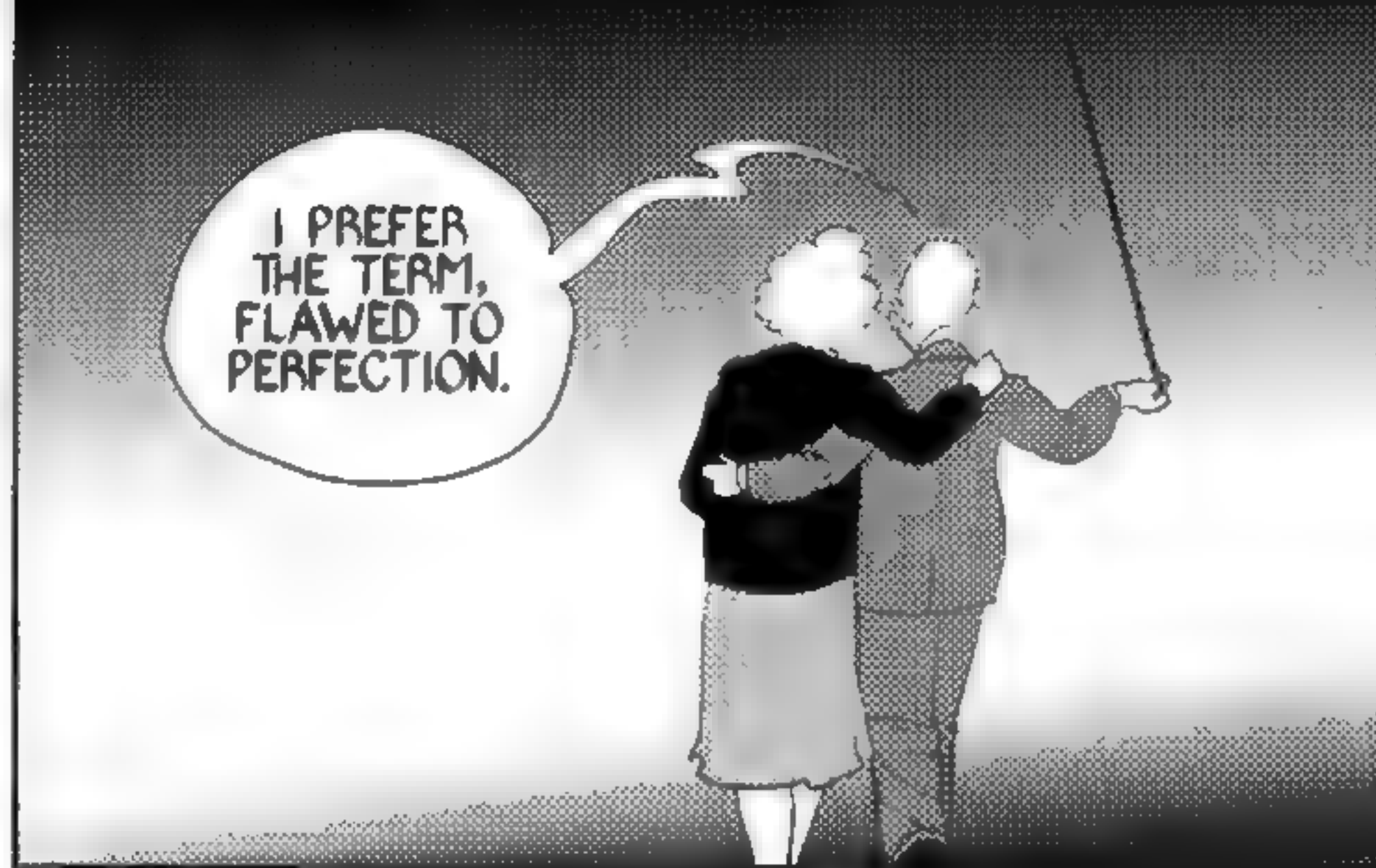
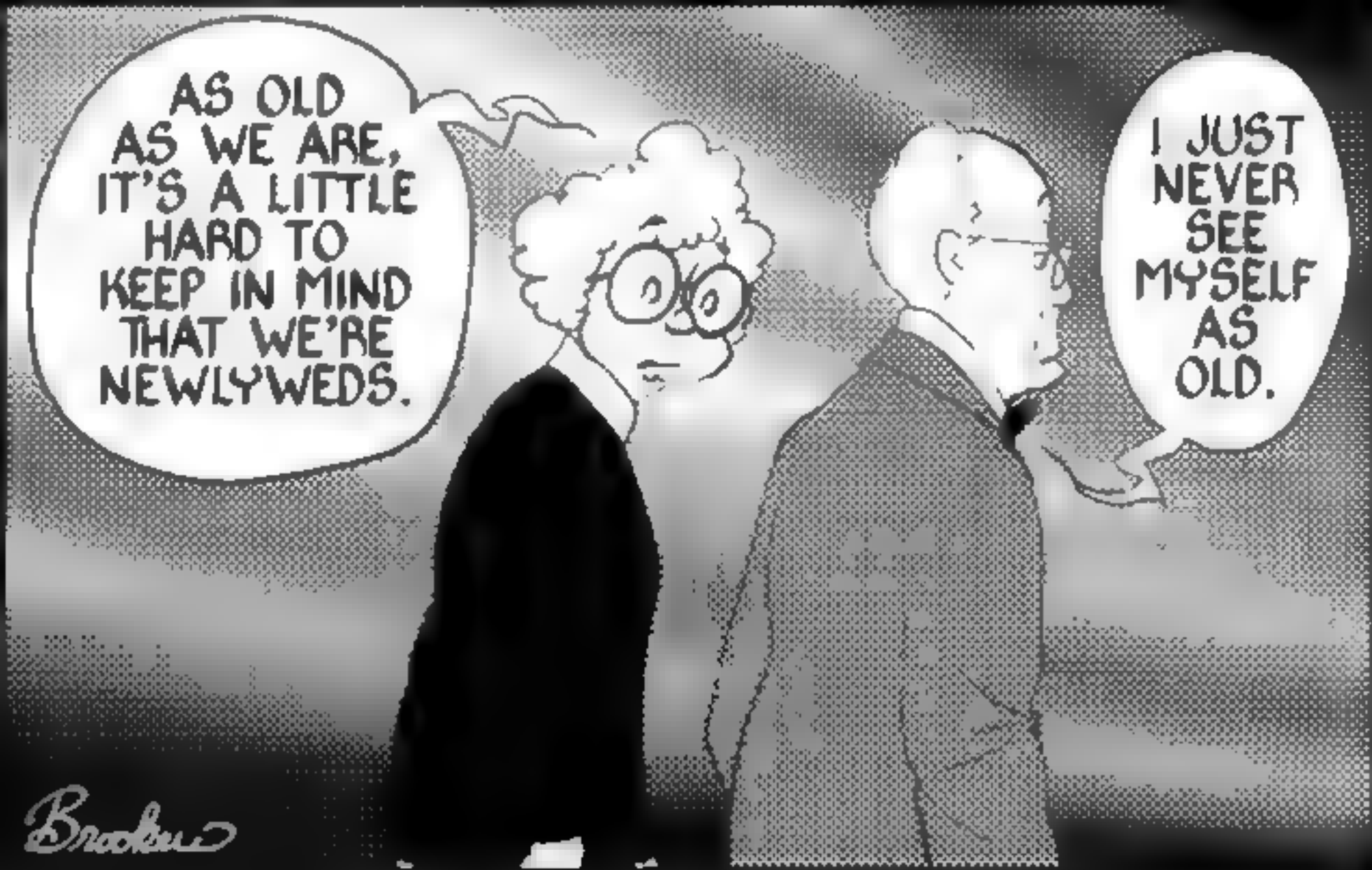


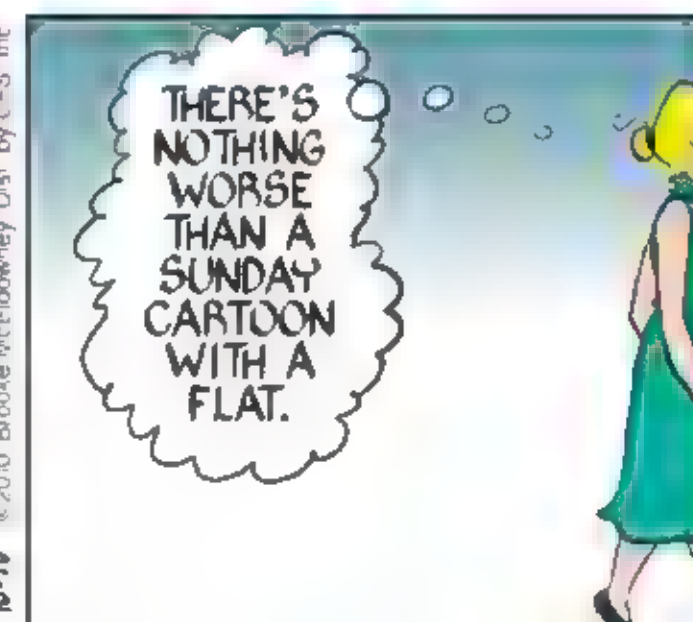
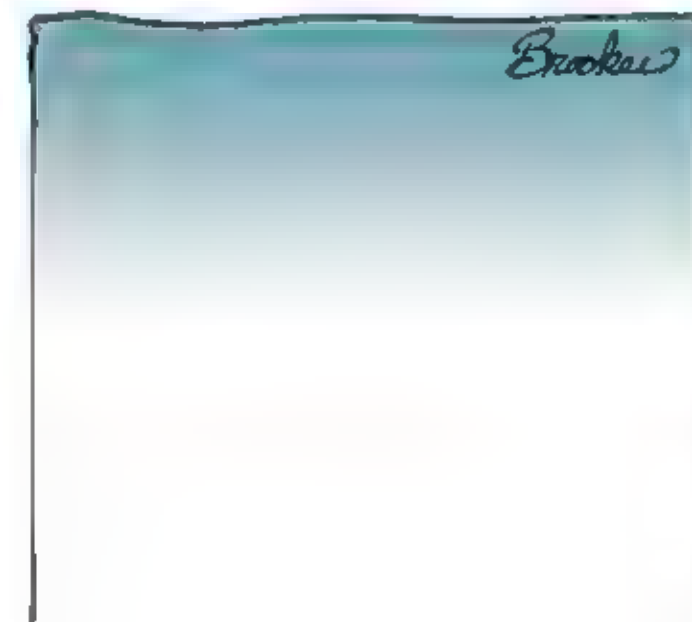
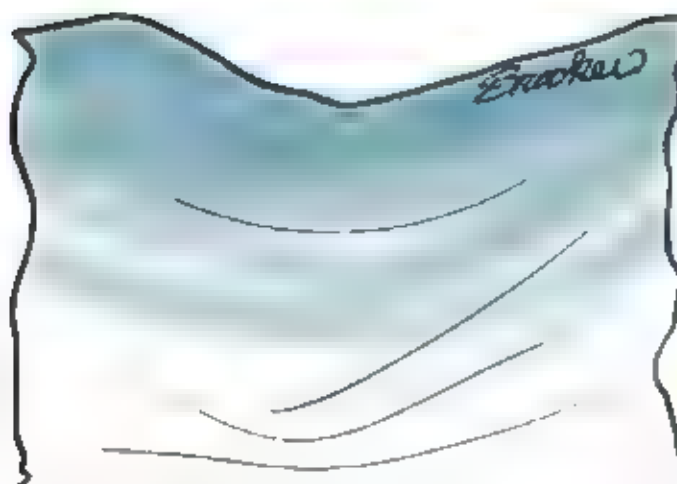
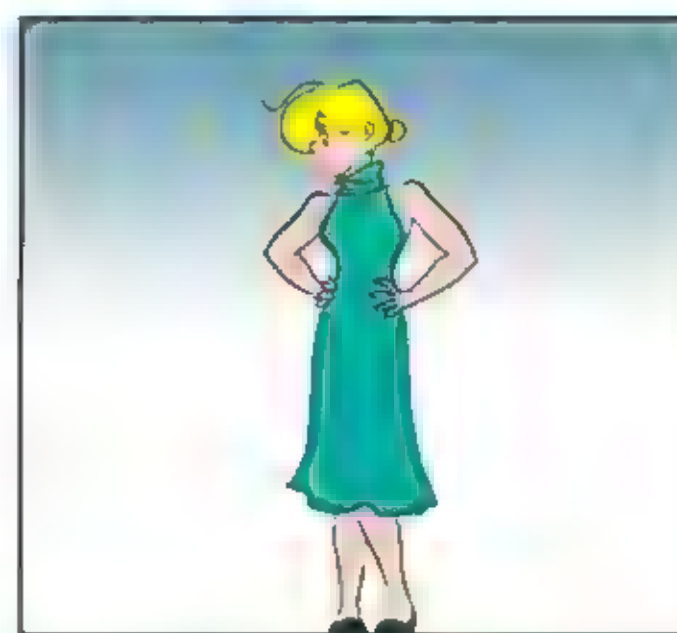
GOING OUT WITH THE SUPERLATIVE USE OF THE WORD  
"QUIXOTIC" FOR A TRIPLE-WORD SCORE AGAINST  
A SELF-PROCLAIMED  
SCRABBLE SAMURAI.









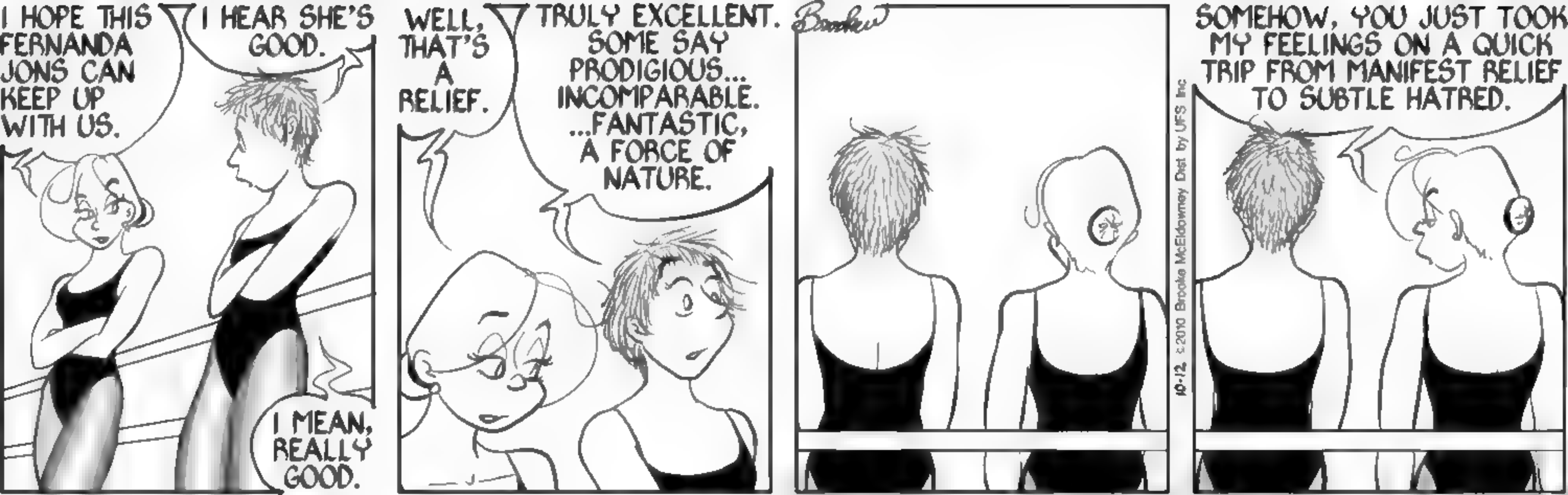




ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT THUNDERS THROUGH THE ARTS WORLD







I HOPE THIS FERNANDA JONS CAN KEEP UP WITH US.

I HEAR SHE'S GOOD.

I MEAN, REALLY GOOD.

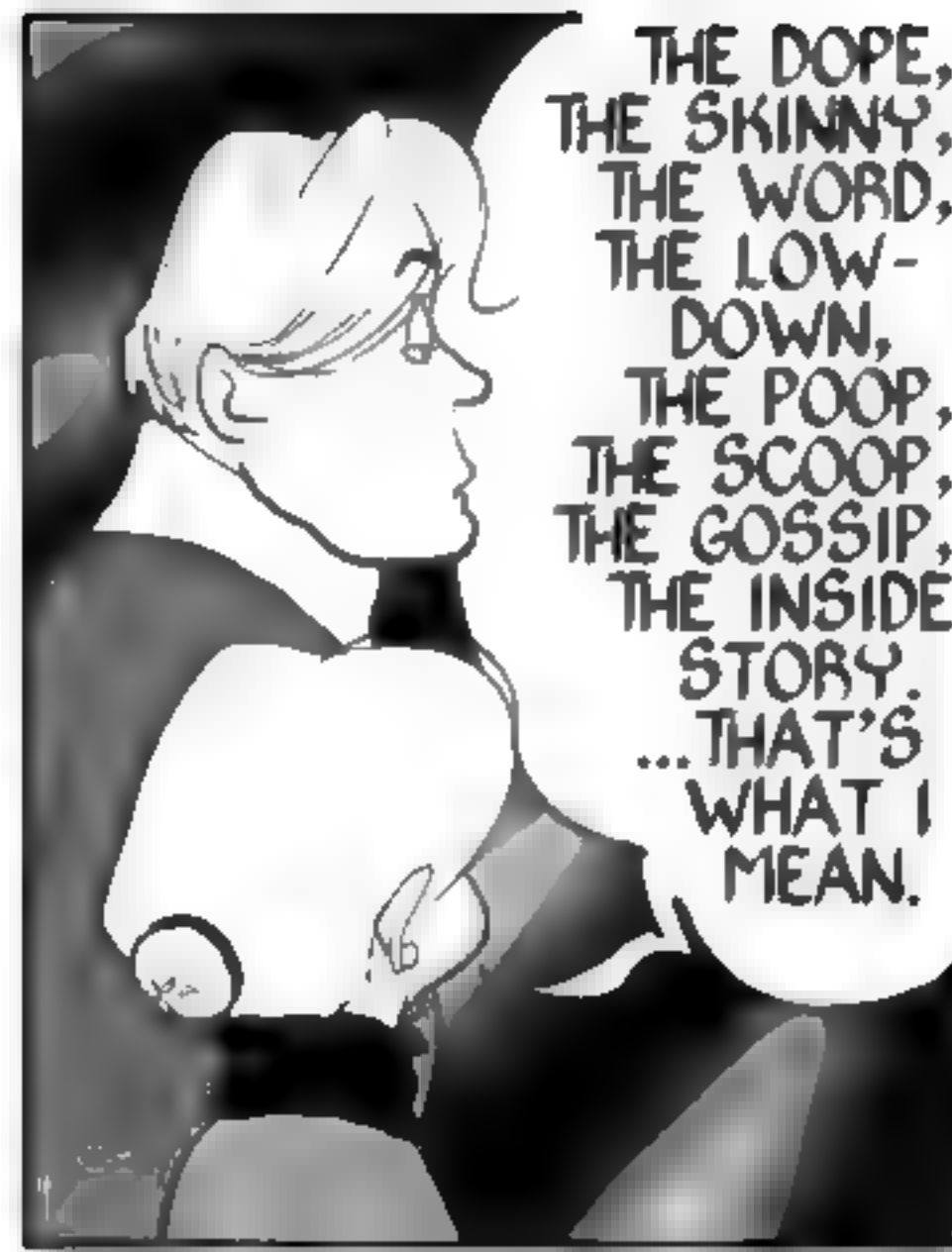
WELL, THAT'S A RELIEF.

TRULY EXCELLENT. SOME SAY PRODIGIOUS... INCOMPARABLE. ...FANTASTIC, A FORCE OF NATURE.

SOMEHOW, YOU JUST TOOK MY FEELINGS ON A QUICK TRIP FROM MANIFEST RELIEF TO SUBTLE HATRED.

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I DON'T KNOW WHY SETH IS BEING SO  
DELIBERATELY CLOSE-MOUTHED WITH ME.  
HE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT A NEW  
DANCER IN OUR COMPANY, AND HE WON'T  
UTTER A MONOSYLLABLE.

WHAT'S  
HIS  
NAME?

IT'S A SHE, AND YOU  
WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT  
HER. IT'S ALL BALLET  
STUFF. HER NAME'S  
FERNANDA JONS.

OH, *THAT* COW.

BUT I'M  
SWORN  
TO  
SECRECY!

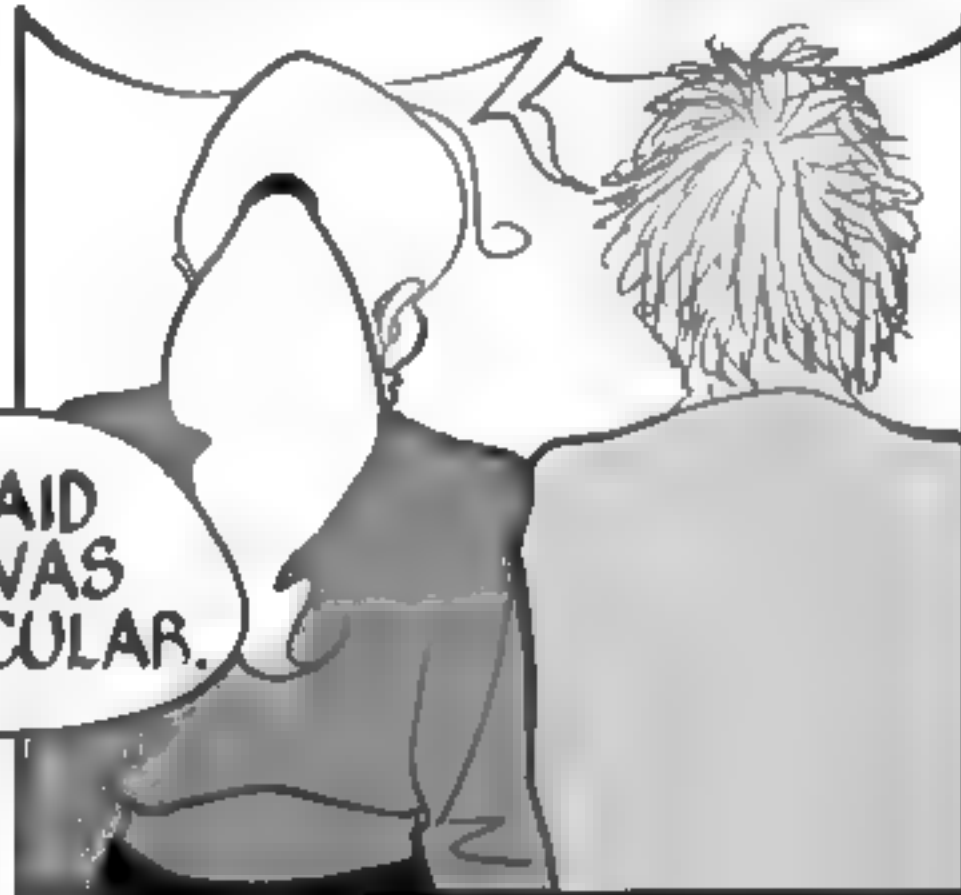
THEN  
THIS WON'T  
TAKE LONG.

FERNANDA JONS IS FROM ARGENTINA. SETH MET HER LAST YEAR, WHEN SHE WAS 18 AND A FINALIST IN A BALLET COMPETITION.

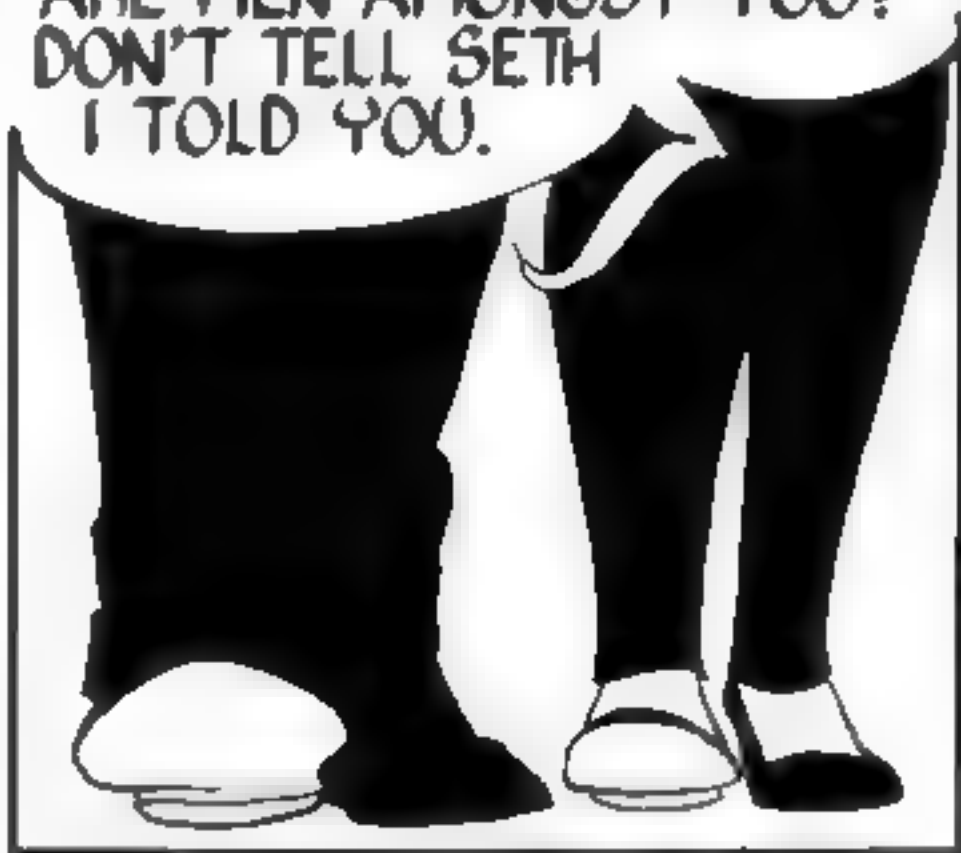


HE SAID SHE WAS SPECTACULAR.

SO HE WENT OVER TO SAY HELLO AND WISH HER LUCK. AND HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED THEY'D MEET AGAIN, PERHAPS DANCE TOGETHER.



SHE EVIDENTLY LOOKED AT HIM NARROWLY AND SAID, "ARE ALL AMERICAN DANCERS SUGARPLUM FAIRIES, OR IS IT SAFE TO ASSUME THERE ARE MEN AMONGST YOU?" DON'T TELL SETH I TOLD YOU.



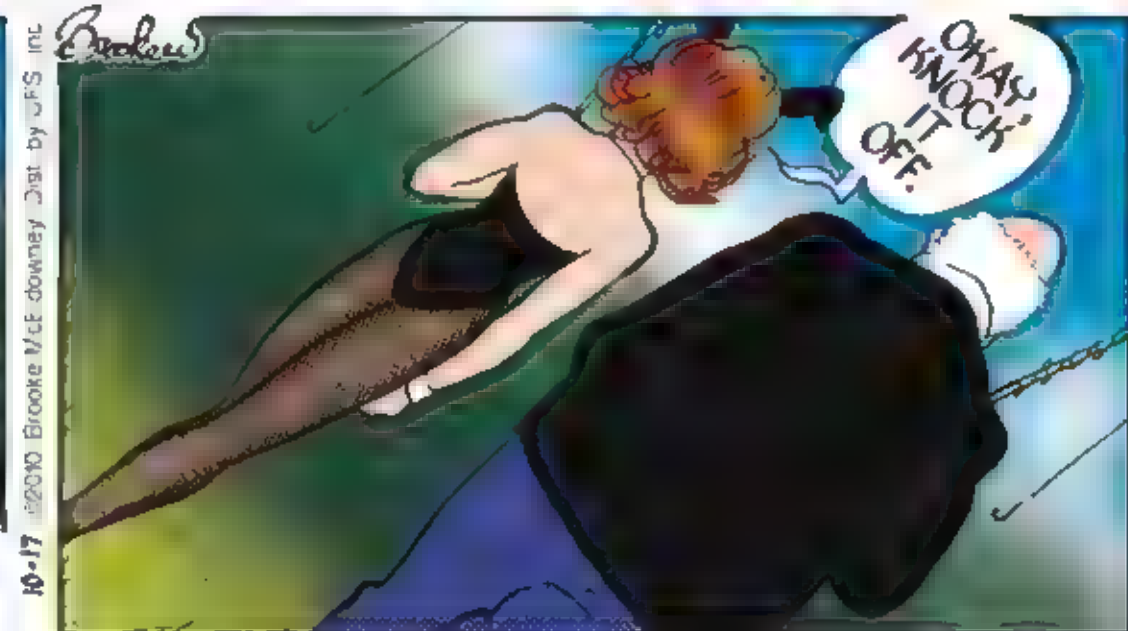
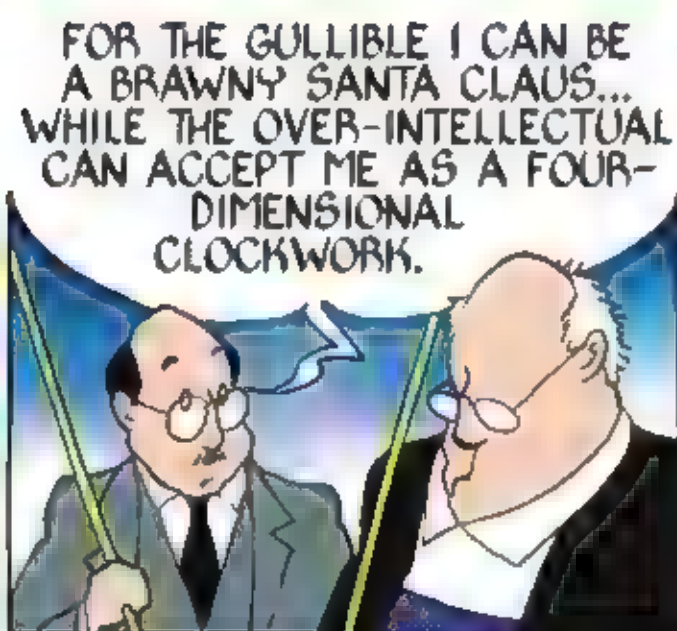
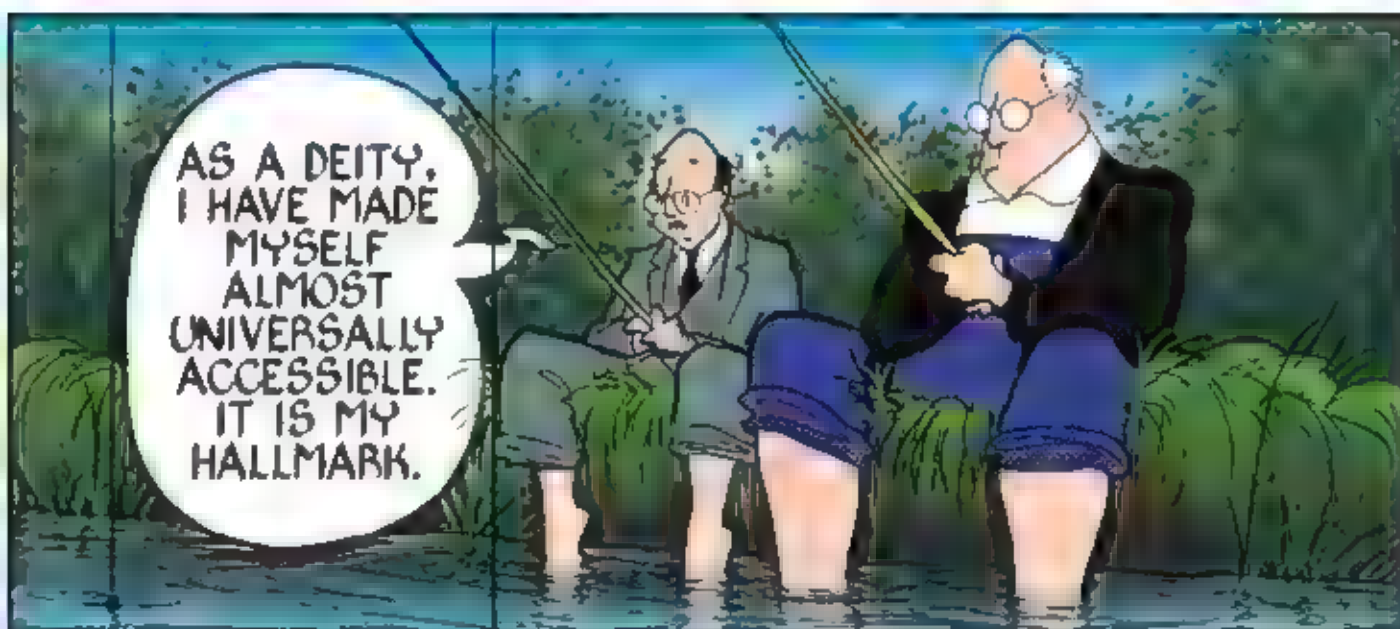
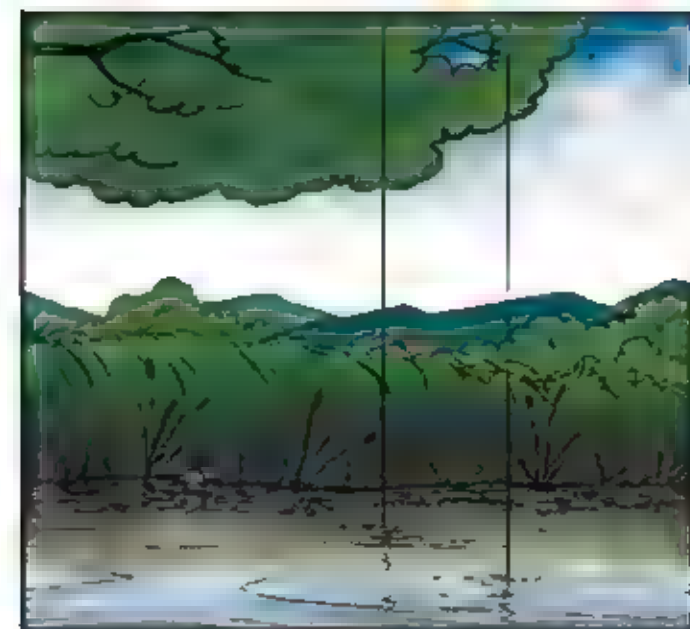
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POOR SETHY.



MARK TOLD YOU.

Brooke







YOU TOLD EDDA! DO YOU  
KNOW THE PROGNOSIS FOR  
ANY SECRET WITH HER?  
IT'S ABOUT THE SAME  
AS A BARREL  
IN NIAGARA  
FALLS.

I...  
...I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND.

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IN THAT THE SECRET IS THE  
BARREL, AND EDDA'S  
MOUTH IS  
NIAGARA  
FALLS.

SETH  
SWEETHEART,  
YOU'RE GORGEOUS  
AND ALL, BUT  
YOU'VE NEVER  
BEEN STELLAR  
IN THE SIMILE  
DEPARTMENT.

I'LL HOLD UP MY SIMILES  
AGAINST ANYBODY'S  
IN THE BUSINESS!

THERE'S A SIMILE  
BUSINESS?

WILL  
YOU  
STAY  
ON  
TRACK!

OKAY...  
...SO YOU'RE  
SAYING  
EDDA HAS...  
...A BARREL IN...  
...HER MOUTH?

\*sigh\*

Brooke

SO, BASICALLY YOU'RE  
SAYING THE CAT  
IS OUT  
OF THE  
BAG.

I WANT YOU  
TO PROMISE  
YOU'LL NEVER  
BREATHE A  
SIGH OF WHAT  
FERNANDA JONS  
SAID TO ME.

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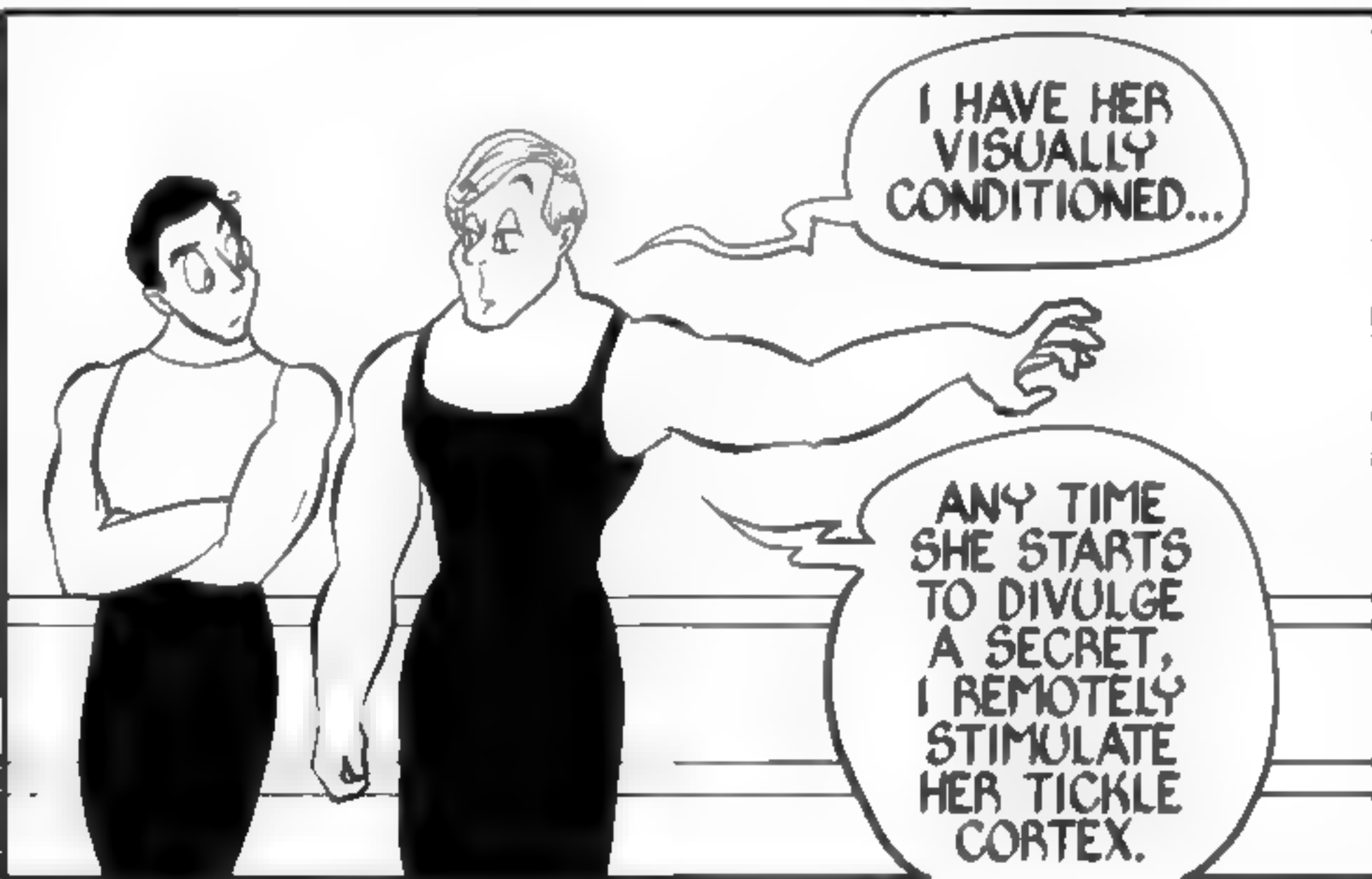
BUT  
YOU SAID  
EDDA  
WILL  
BLAB IT  
EVERY-  
WHERE.

NO SHE WON'T.  
I EXTRACTED A  
VOW OF ETERNAL  
CONFIDENCE...IT'S  
AS GOOD AS  
A SIGNATURE  
IN BLOOD.

...YOU  
DIDN'T...









EVERYBODY, I WANT TO  
INTRODUCE YOU TO  
FERNANDA JONS...

SHE  
COMES  
TO US FROM  
ARGENTINA,  
AND I KNOW  
YOU'LL ALL  
MAKE HER FEEL  
VERY WELCOME.



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NOW I WANT TO INTRODUCE  
YOU TO YOUR PARTNER.  
HE ABSOLUTELY INSISTED  
ON TAKING YOU ON, AND  
WOULD BROOK NO  
OPPOSITION.



*Brooke*



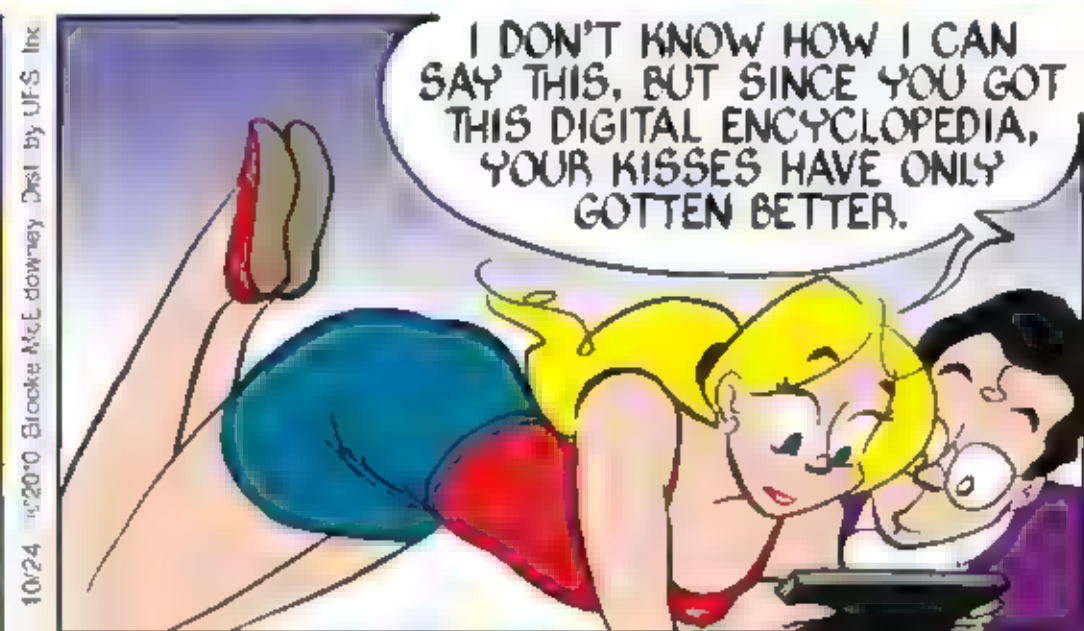
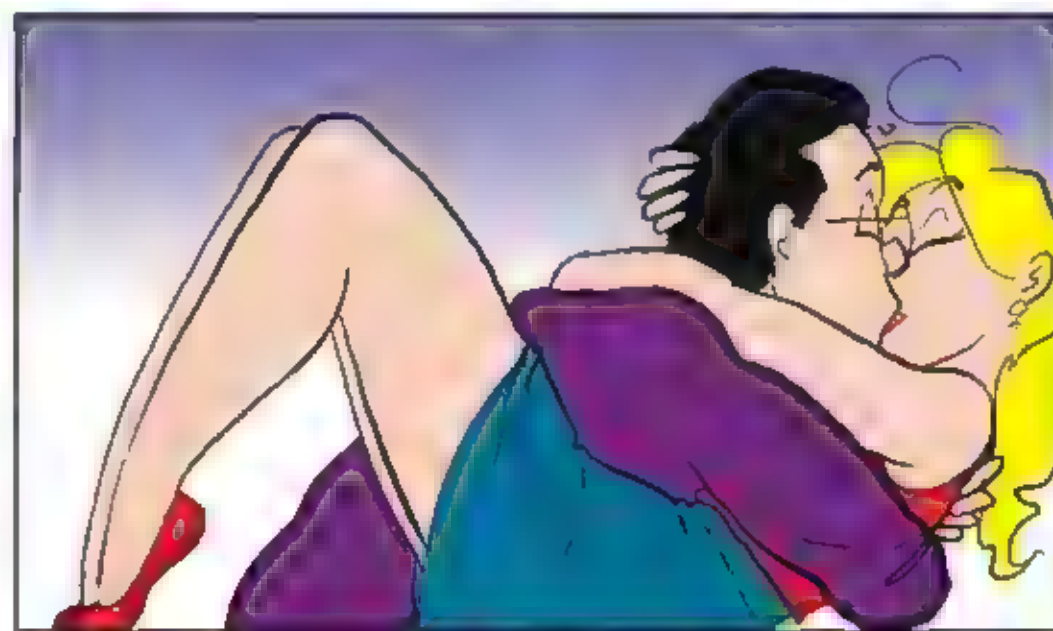
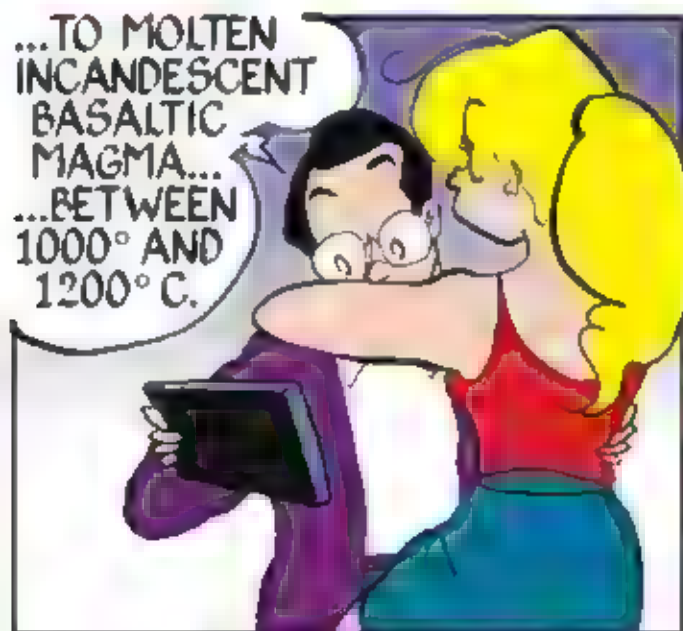
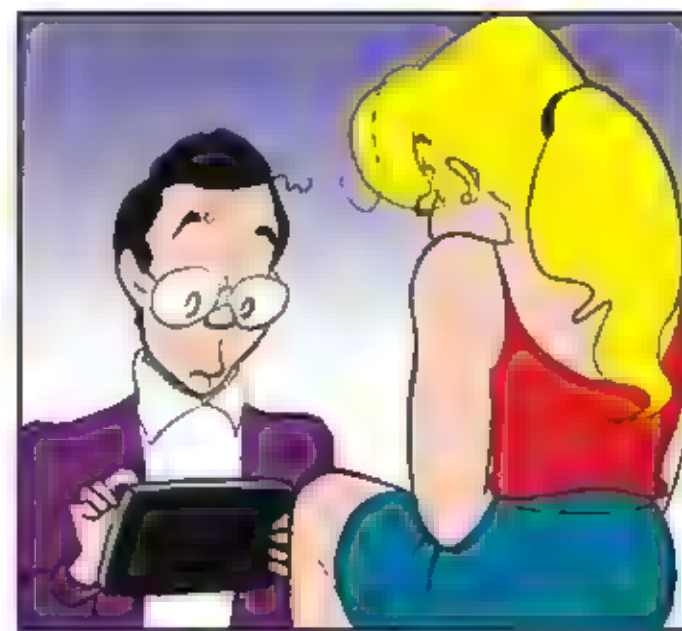
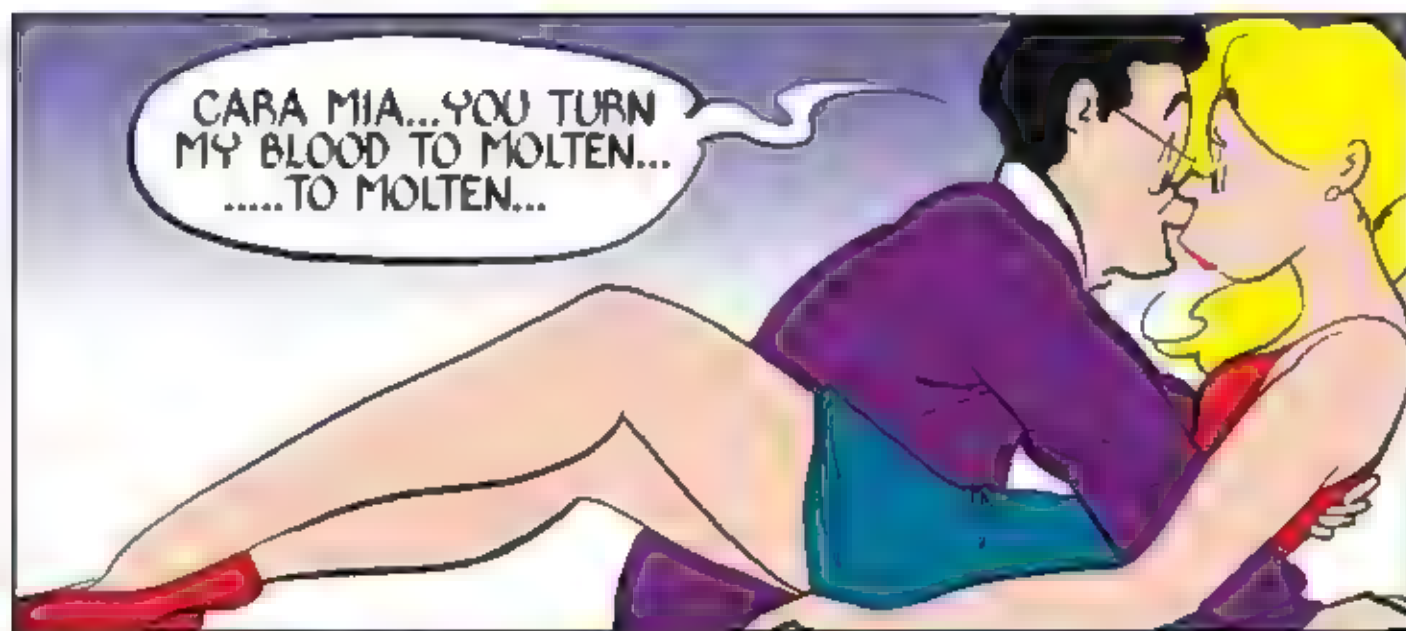
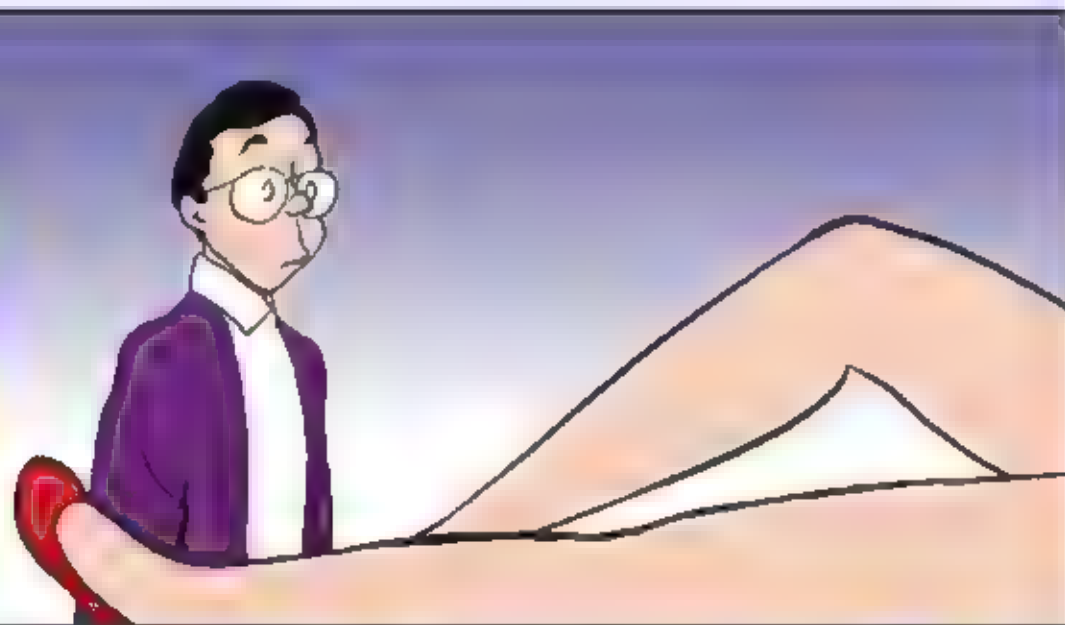
MS. JONS...

MR. APPLEBY...

I SEE INTRODUCTIONS  
ARE UNNECESSARY.







EDDA, LISTEN, I DIDN'T TELL  
YOU WHAT I WAS PLANNING  
BECAUSE I JUST...

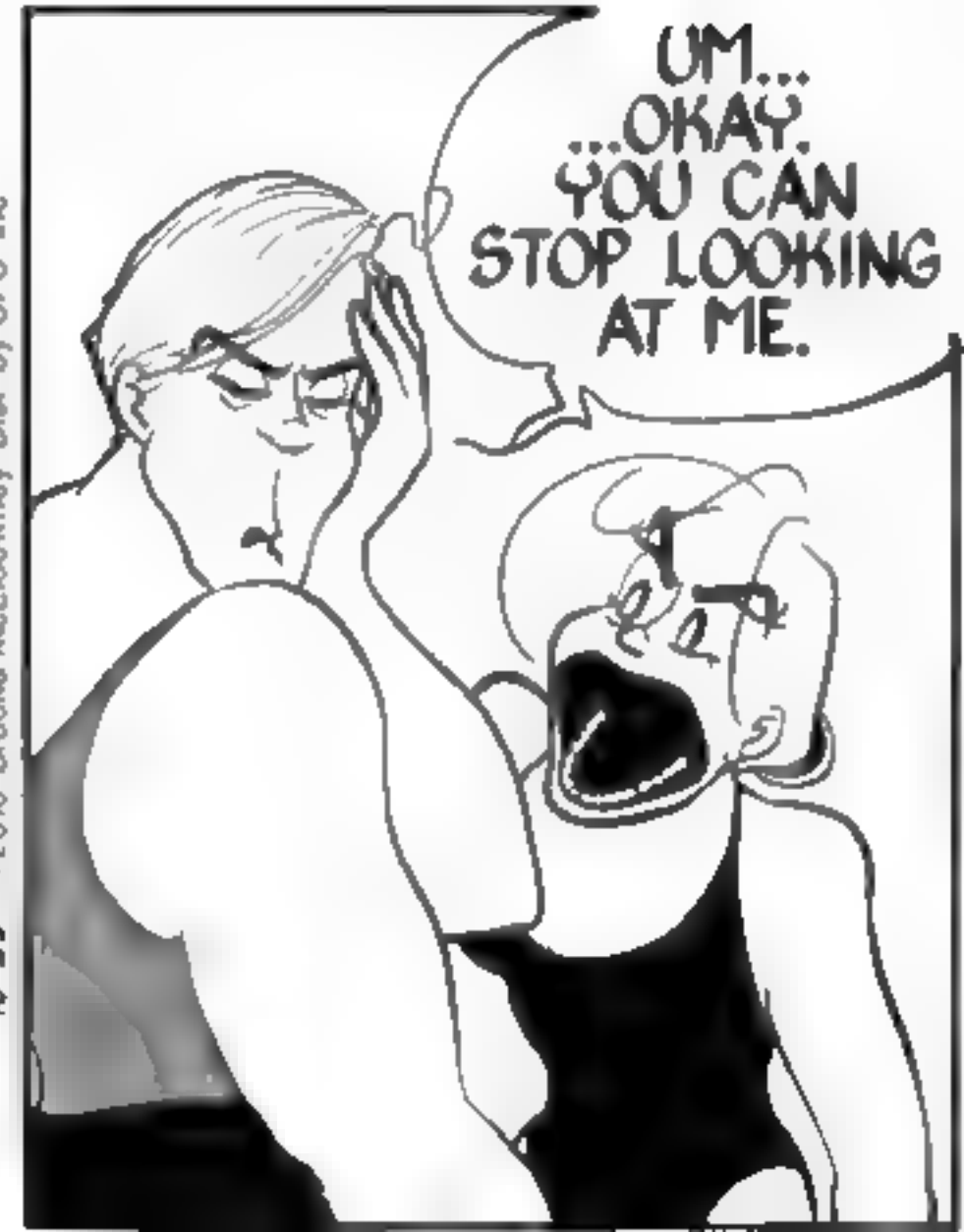
...I JUST...  
EDDA, WOULD  
YOU PLEASE  
LOOK  
AT ME?



*Brooke*



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UM...  
...OKAY.  
YOU CAN  
STOP LOOKING  
AT ME.

C'MON, EDDA, QUIT SULKING  
LIKE AN OXYGEN-DEPRIVED  
BUN HEAD.  
GET YOUR  
ISSUE OUT IN  
THE OPEN.



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WELL,  
ALL RIGHT,  
THEN...TO BE  
SUCCINCT,  
YOU...

Brooke?

...DUMPED  
ME!!



HEY, SETH...I LIKE YOUR  
HAIR PARTED  
ON THAT  
SIDE.



I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE TOLD  
YOU, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D  
TAKE IT BADLY.

WHEREAS  
LEARNING IN  
FRONT OF THE  
WHOLE BALLET  
COMPANY  
THAT MY  
PARTNER  
DUMPED

ME  
WAS  
SO  
MUCH  
MORE COM-  
FORTING.

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WHAT DOES THAT MEAN!?!...  
...YOU DUMPED ME  
APPROXI-  
MATELY?!



JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE  
HACKED OFF, NASTY AND  
NEED A SHOWER  
DOESN'T MEAN  
YOU HAVE  
TO GET  
DIDACTIC.





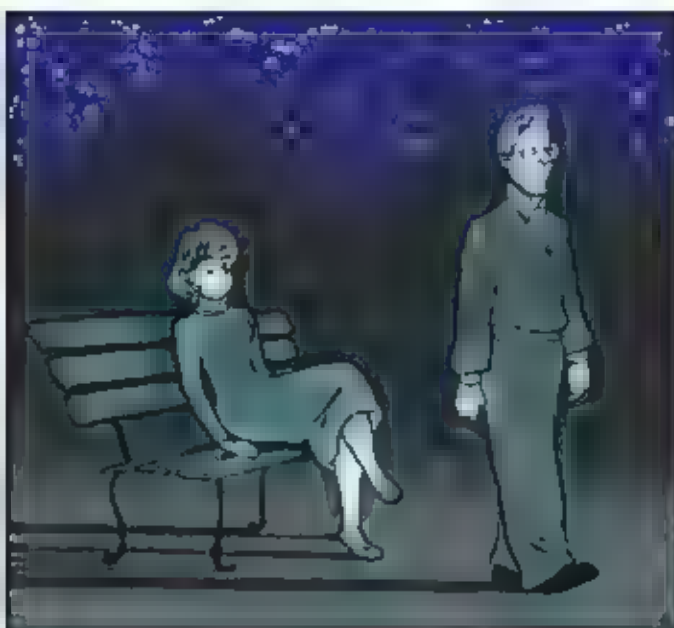
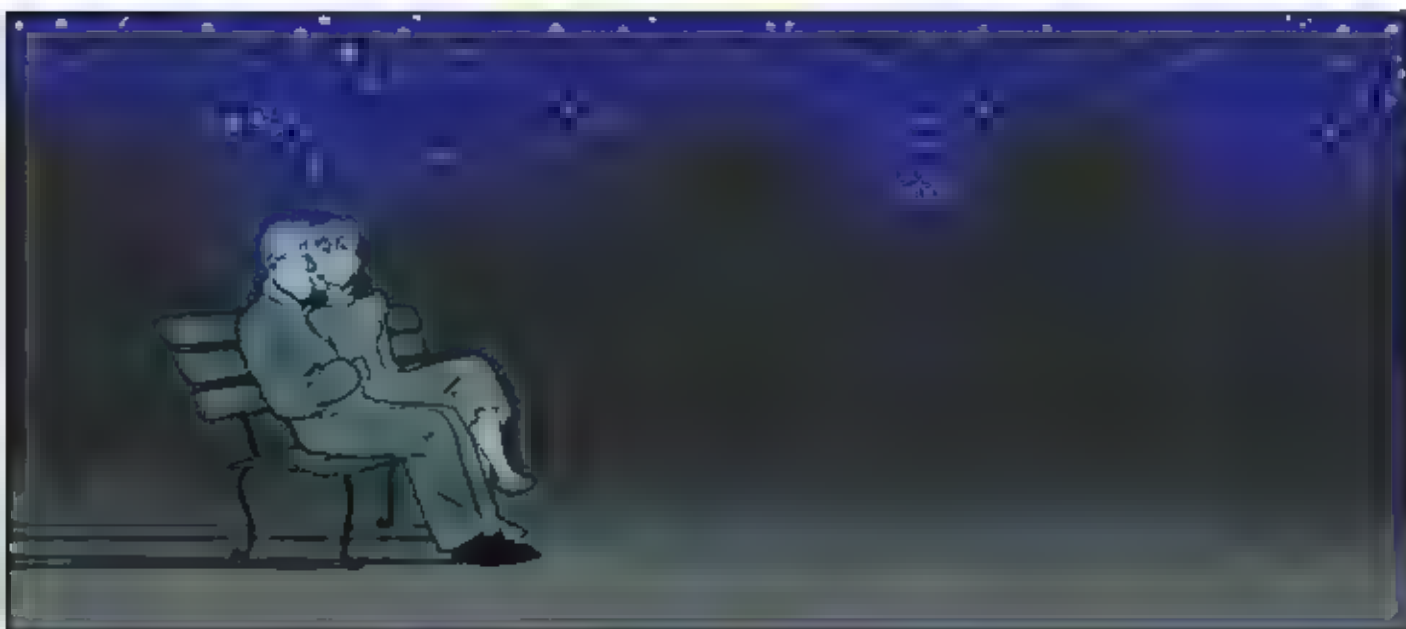






# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

®



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EDDA, THIS IS LUKE. HE'LL  
BE WORKING WITH YOU FOR  
THE TIME BEING. I KNOW  
HE'LL LEARN A  
LOT FROM  
YOU.



IT'S A REAL  
HONOR...UM...  
EDDA.

I COULD SWEAR HE  
JUST FELL SHORT  
OF CALLING ME  
"MA'AM."



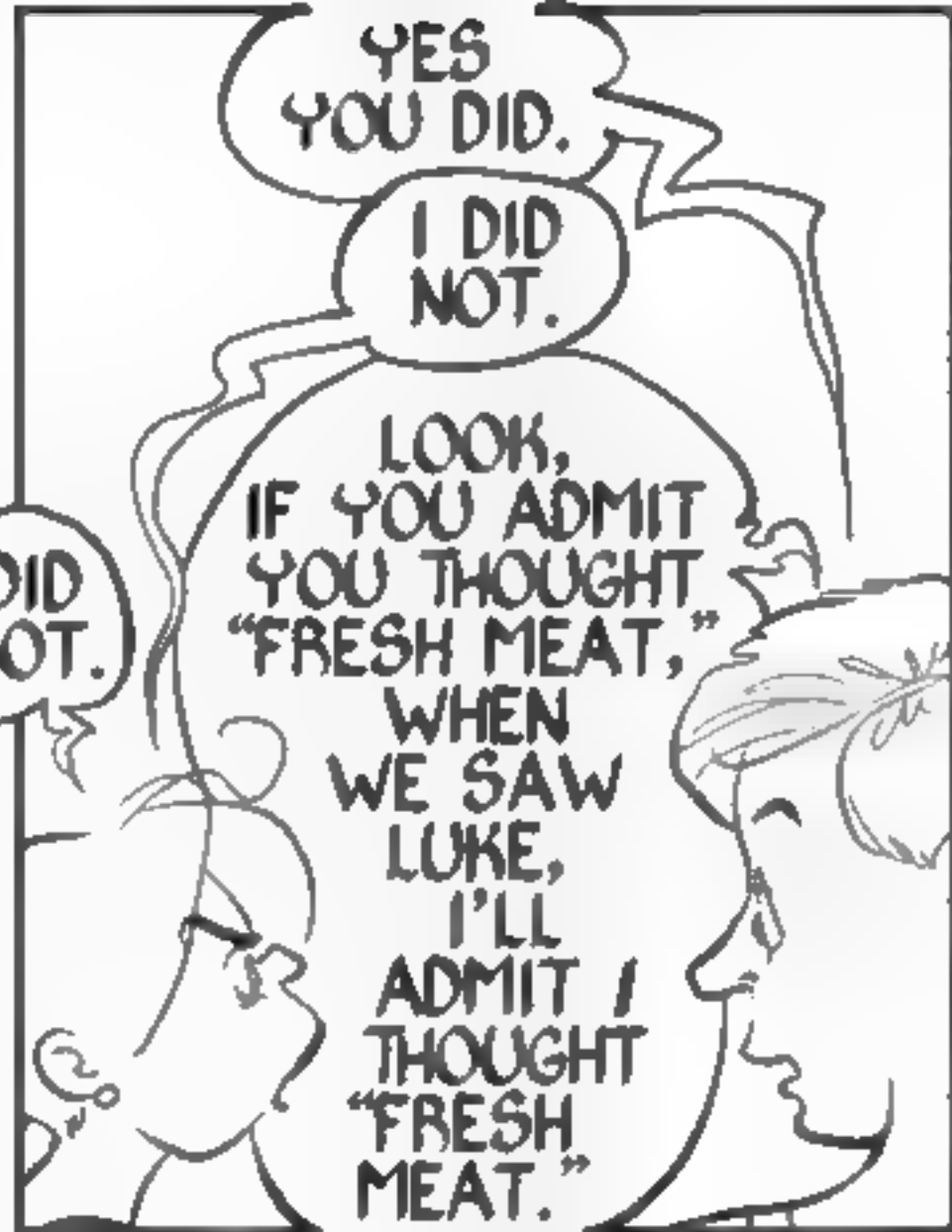
HE'S FROM  
OKLAHOMA.  
THEY RAISE  
THEIR KIDS TO  
BE POLITE...

*Back*



...TO THEIR  
ELDERS.







I DANCED WITH A NEW  
PARTNER TODAY. HE'S KIND  
OF YOUNG AND BLOND AND  
HUNKY AND CORN-FED...



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...INNOCENT AND REALLY  
CUTE...SLIM BUT...  
...POWERFULLY  
.....ATHLETIC...



WHAT'S  
HIS NAME?

I  
FORGET.

I WANT  
TO THANK  
HIM.



Brooke

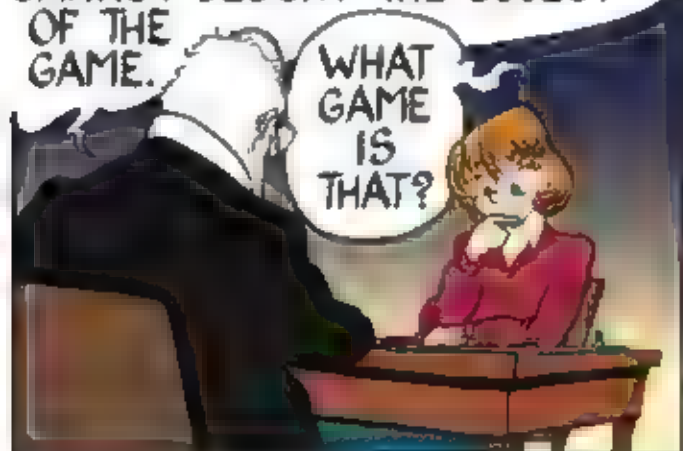


# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

®



THERE'S ONE GAME HUMAN BEINGS PLAY THAT I HAVE NEVER MASTERED, MAINLY BECAUSE I CANNOT DESCRIBE THE OBJECT OF THE GAME.

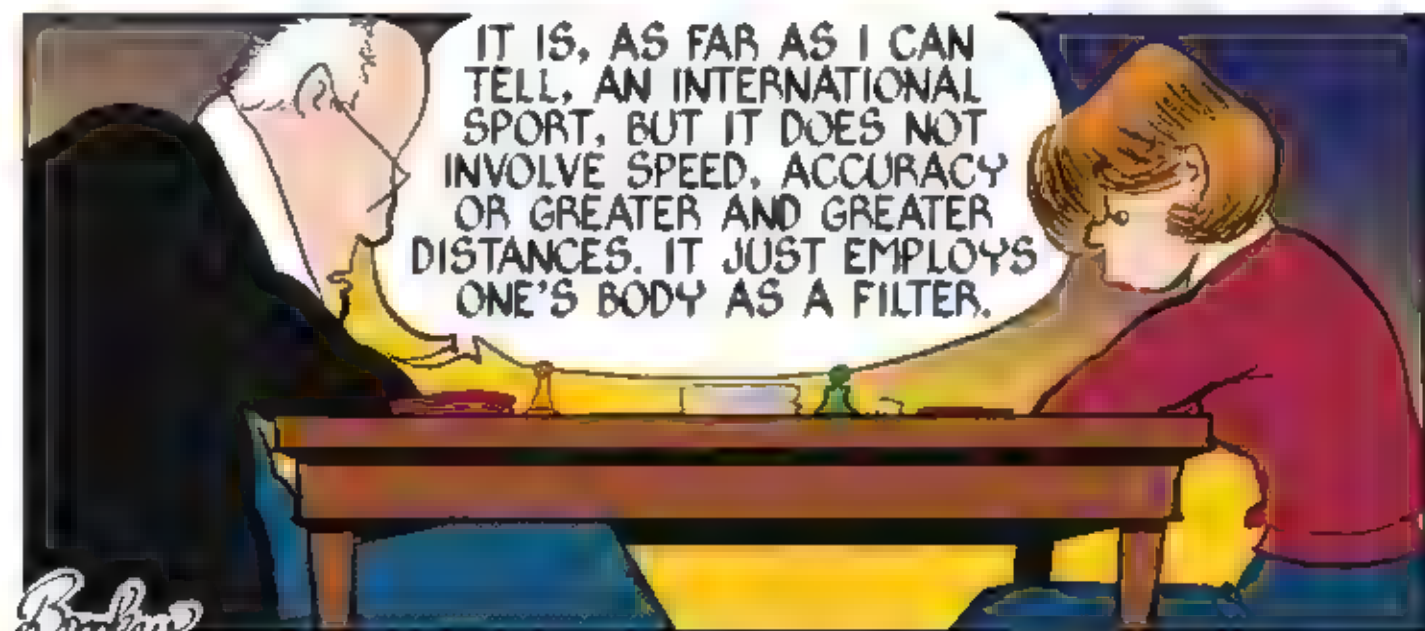


WHAT GAME IS THAT?

IT IS A GAME IN WHICH PEOPLE BOIL CLEAR WATER, POLLUTE IT WITH SOME SUBSTANCE, POSSIBLY FURTHER POLLUTE IT WITH SUGAR AND/OR DAIRY PRODUCT, THEN USE THEIR BODIES TO FILTER OUT THE POLLUTANTS.



IT IS, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, AN INTERNATIONAL SPORT, BUT IT DOES NOT INVOLVE SPEED, ACCURACY OR GREATER AND GREATER DISTANCES. IT JUST EMPLOYS ONE'S BODY AS A FILTER.



*Broken*

I PREFER MONOPOLY.



THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THE BOARD. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DISSOLVE IN HOT WATER, AND REMARKABLY CHEWY.



WELL, YOU JUST KEEP ON TRYING.

I SHALL, I SHALL. ...B&O RAILROAD?



NO, I JUST HAD LUNCH.

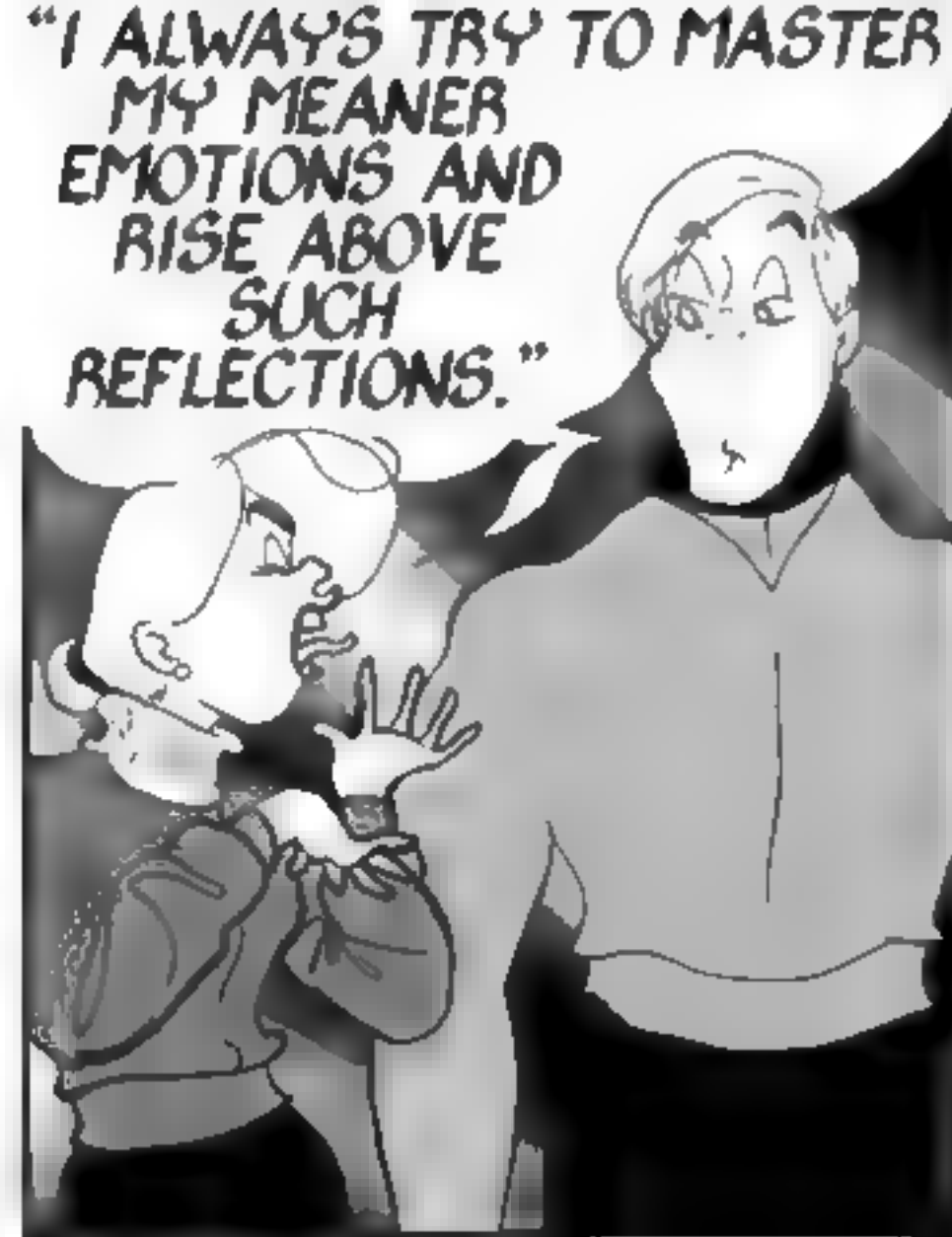




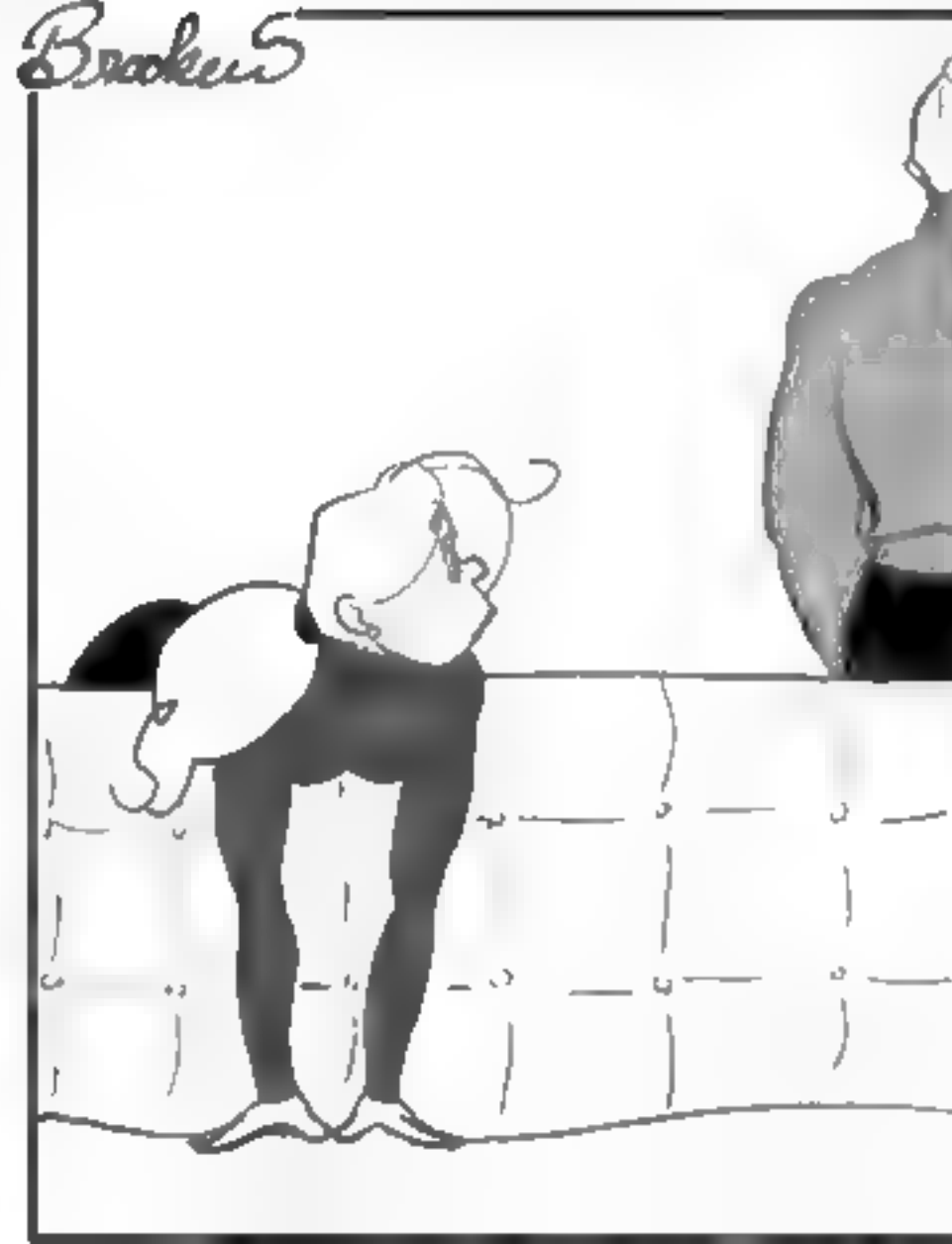


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SO WHAT'S SETH DOING  
WITH FERNANDA?...  
MAKING HER LIFE  
A RING OF  
HELLFIRE?

HE'S USING THE GUILT  
APPROACH...TREATING HER  
WITH ELEGANT RESPECT  
AND SCRUPULOUS  
SUPPORTIVE  
KINDNESS.

THAT'S  
HOW I  
TREAT  
YOU  
ALL  
THE  
TIME.

IN ANOTHER  
FIFTY YEARS  
I'LL BE  
SCREAMING  
FOR MERCY.



SO WHEN ARE YOU GOING  
TO LET FERNANDA TRY  
OUT SOME  
OTHER  
GUYS  
IN THE  
COM-  
PANY?

YOU DON'T ACTUALLY WANT  
TO BE HER PARTNER,  
DO YOU?

NO,  
I JUST  
WANT TO RUB  
HER NOSE IN HOW  
RUDE SHE WAS TO ME,  
TO PUT HER FEET TO THE FIRE.

Brooke

YESTERDAY I SHOWED HER  
AROUND THE CITY, TOOK  
HER TO THE TOP OF  
THE EMPIRE STATE  
BUILDING...

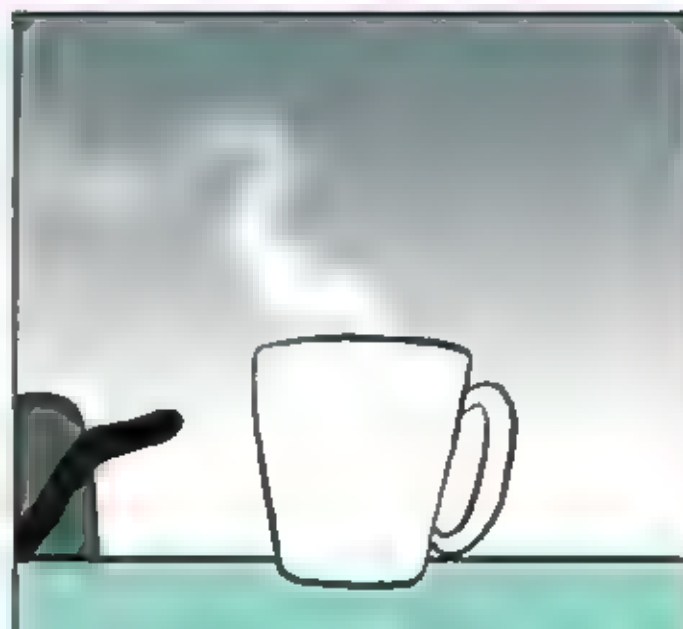
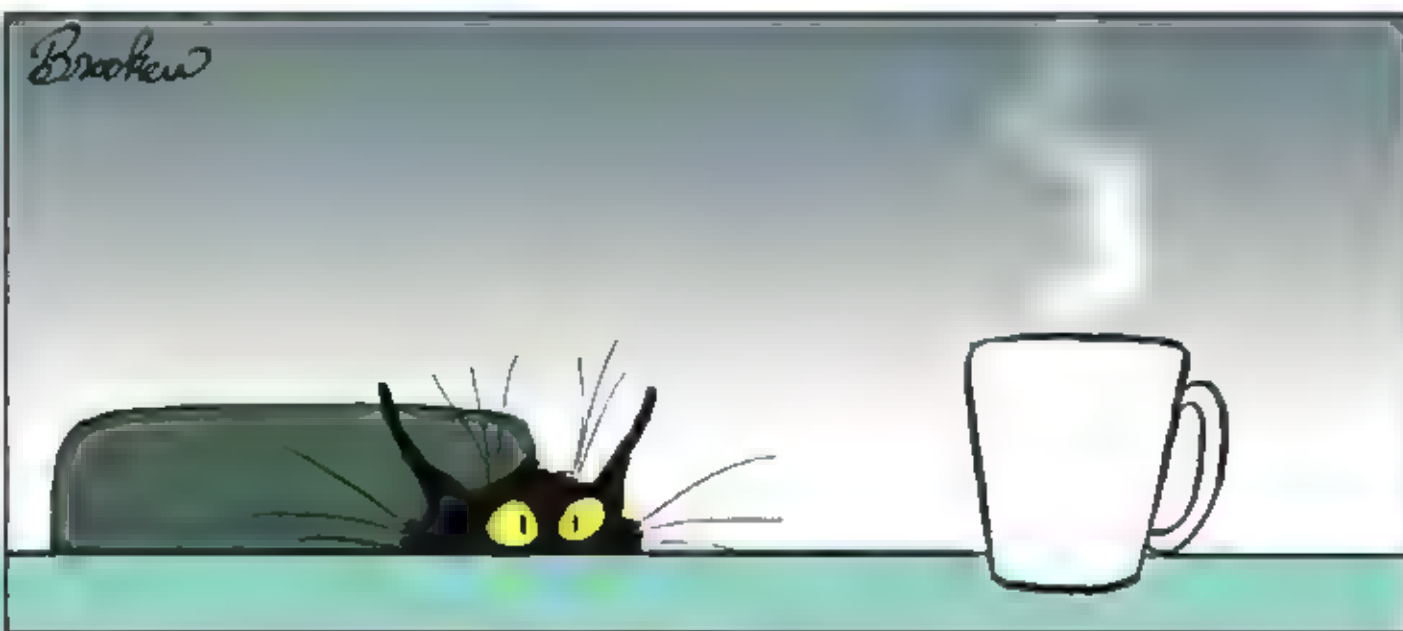
...AND I  
BOUGHT HER  
AN ICE CREAM CONE.

SETH  
APPLEBY,  
YOU'RE A  
MONSTER.

SOMETIMES  
I HAVE A HARD  
TIME SLEEPING.

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11-17 ©2010 Brooke McEldown



I HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY APARTMENT NOW. THANK YOU BOTH FOR BEING SO SWEET.



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11-18



WELL, I'M STILL MAD AT HER.

Brooke



I AM TOO.

I HOPE SHE GETS HOME SAFELY... IT'S KIND OF LATE.



I'LL JUST PHONE TO CHECK.

AS I'VE GOTTEN  
TO KNOW FERNANDA,  
I FIND SHE'S A GIRL  
OF SWEET, INNOCENT  
VULNERABILITY.

OKAY, JUST TO RECAP  
THE TOTALITY OF YOUR  
TESTIMONY, FERNANDA  
IS A SWEET, WASPISH,  
RUTHLESS, INNOCENT,  
SAWTOOTHED,  
MALIGNANT,  
INSULTING,  
VULNERABLE,  
HOMOPHOBIC  
WITCH.

RICH  
WITH  
CONTRA-  
DICTION.

I GUESS  
SHE IS.

I MEANT  
YOUR  
TESTIMONY.



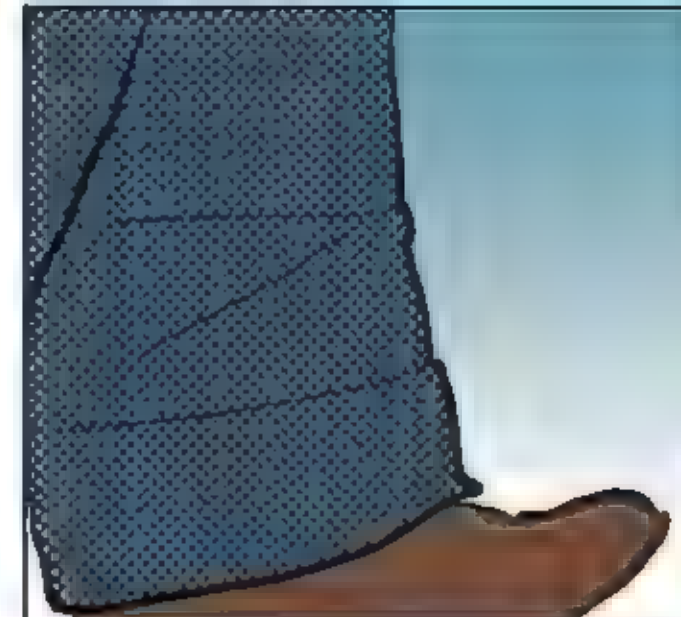


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# 9 CHICKWEED LANE

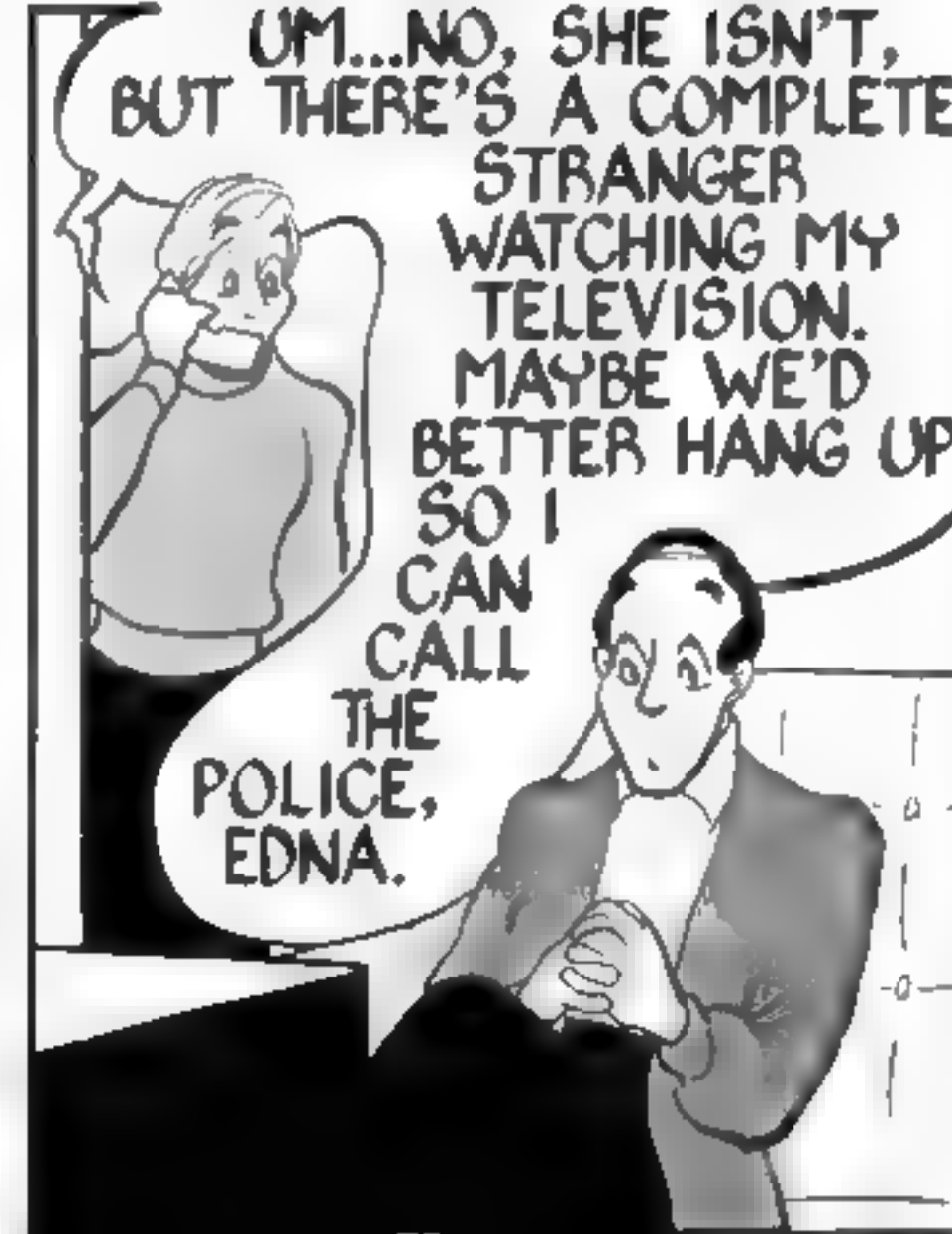
®



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Brooke





UM, EDNA,  
THE STRANGER  
ON MY COUCH  
JUST ASKED  
IF YOU'RE  
HIS MOTHER.

SHE SAYS I SHOULD  
ASK IF YOUR NAME  
IS ROGER?

YES,  
IT IS.

AND IS HE  
WEARING...

...MISMATCHED  
SOCKS?

WHY ARE YOU  
STARING AT MY  
SHOES IN WHAT  
CAN ONLY BE  
CALLED  
HORROR-  
STRICKEN  
SURMISE?



EDDA SAYS YOU HAVE...  
...IS IT TEN  
CHILDREN?

ELEVEN.

THAT  
WOULD  
SEEM TO  
SUGGEST  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT IT  
MEANS  
TO BE  
PASSIONATE.

MY  
WIFE  
USES  
THE  
WORD  
"STURDY."



*Barbara*

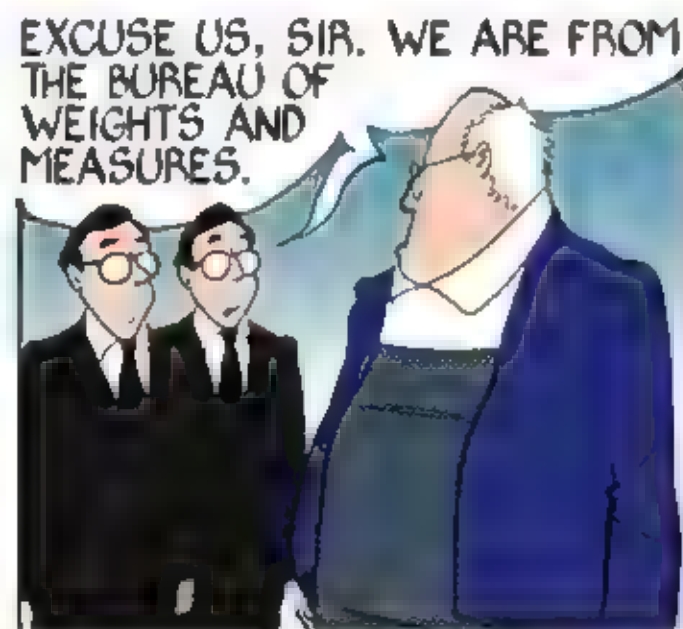
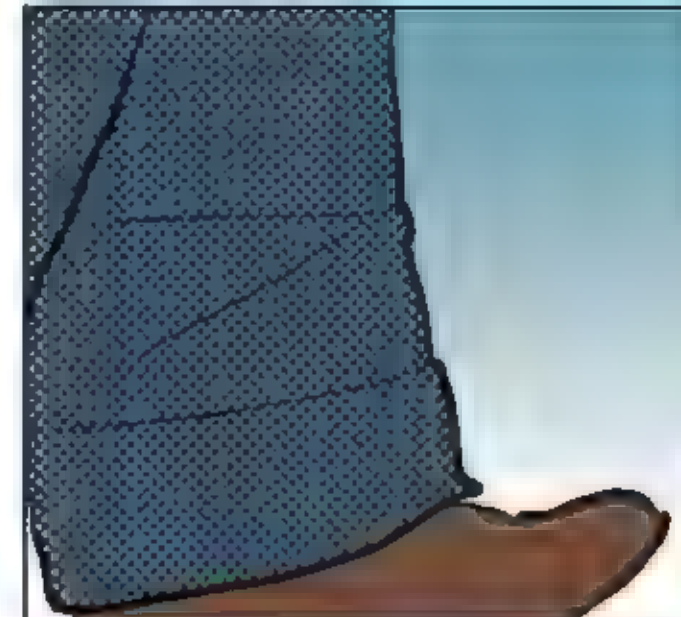
MY, THE CHAMPAGNE CORKS  
MUST RICOCHET ALL OVER  
YOUR HOUSE.

I PREFER  
THOSE LITTLE  
METAL SCREW  
CAPS  
ON THE  
GALLON  
BOTTLE.

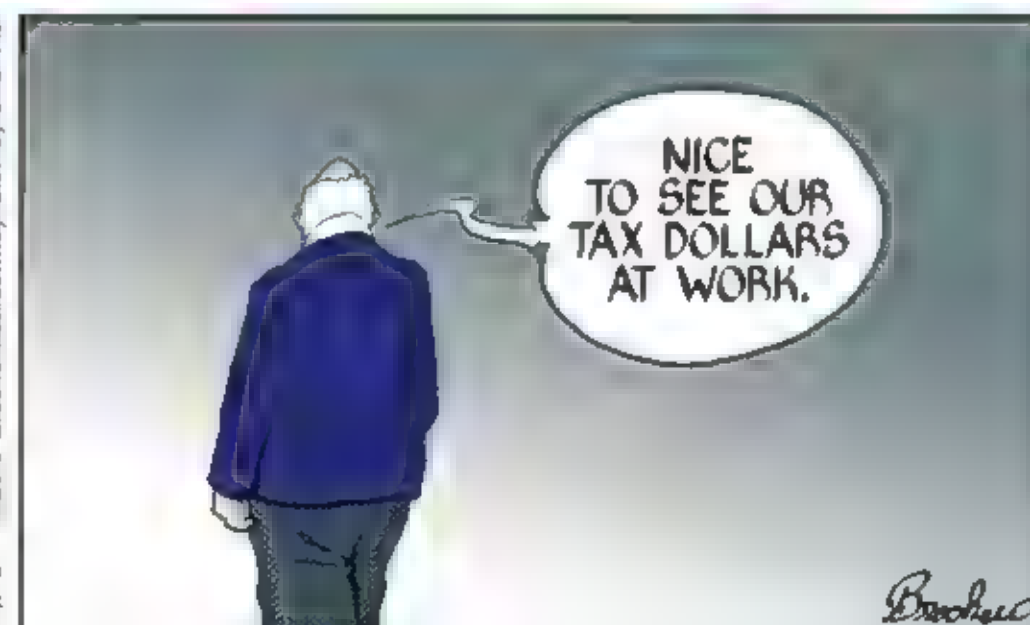
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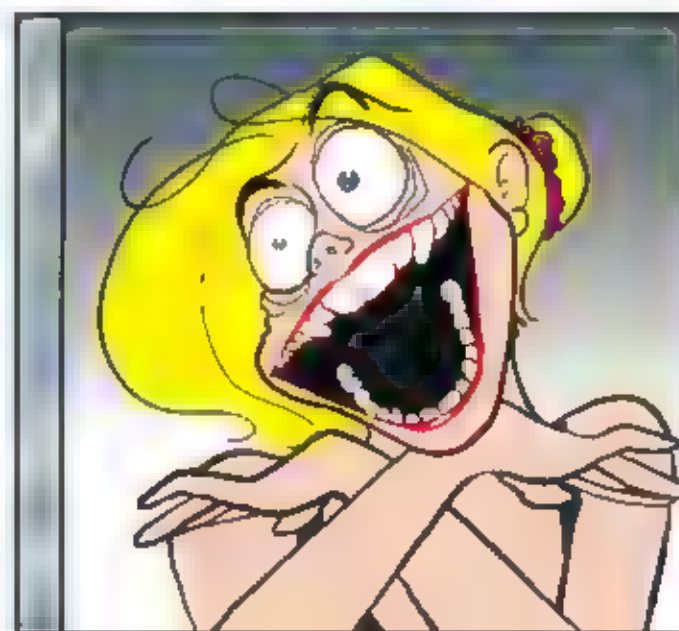
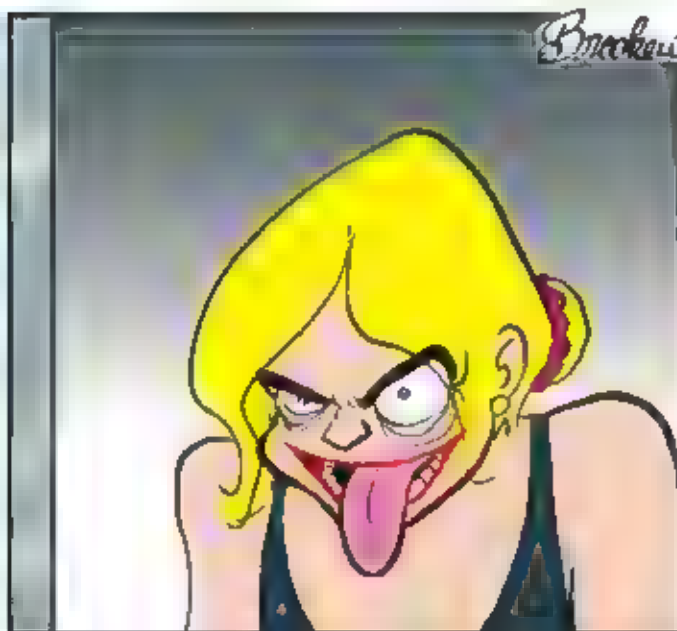
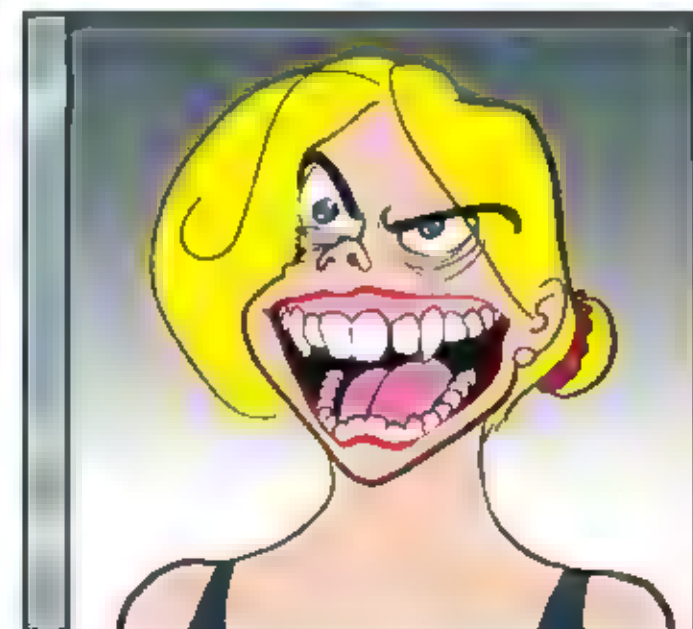
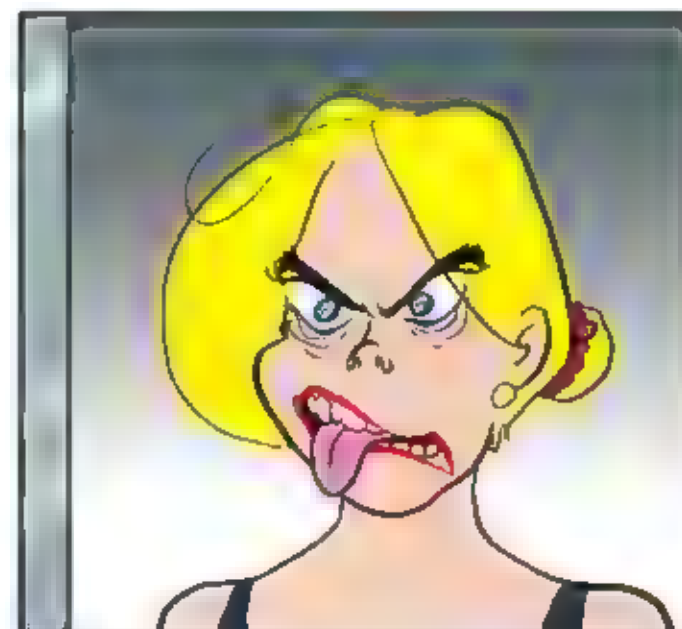
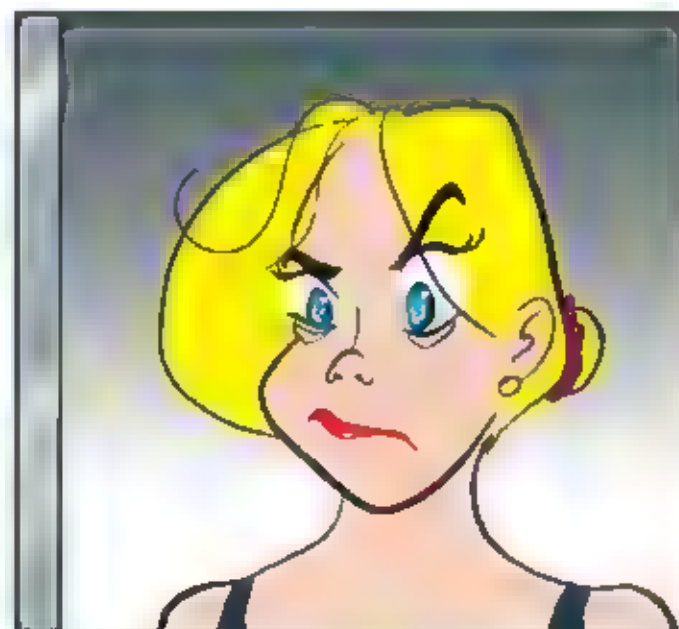
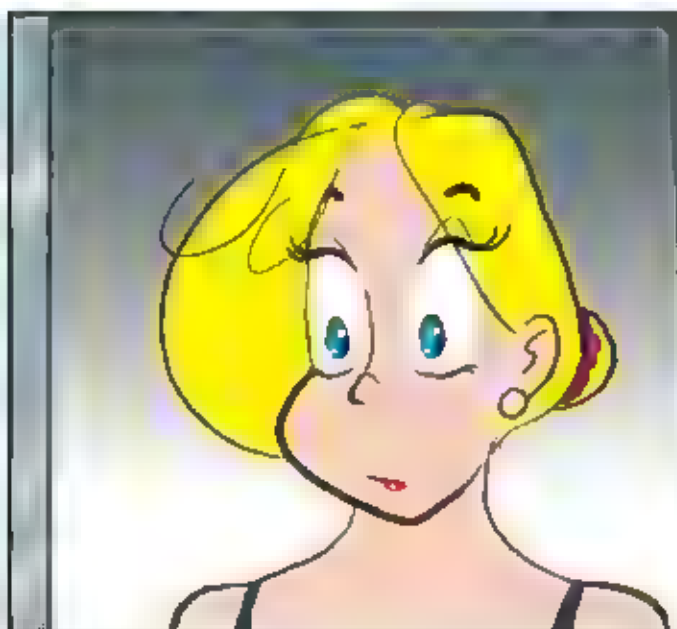
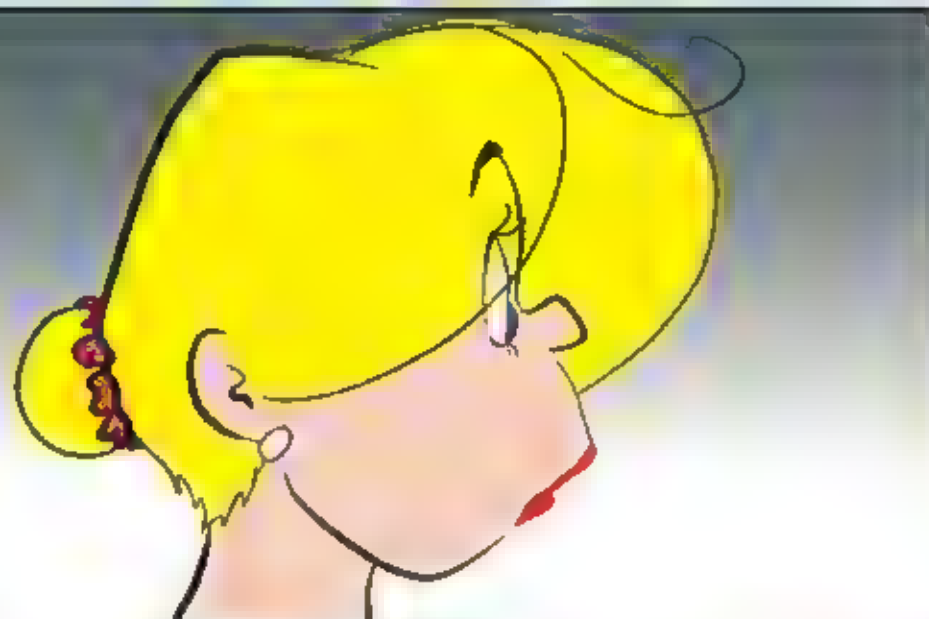




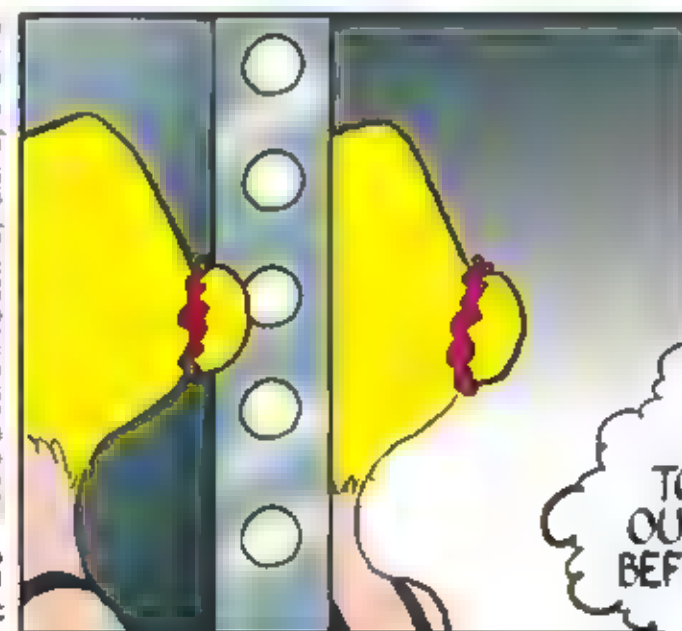
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IT'S ALWAYS  
A GOOD IDEA  
TO WRING THOSE  
OUT OF YOUR FACE  
BEFORE THE CURTAIN  
GOES UP.



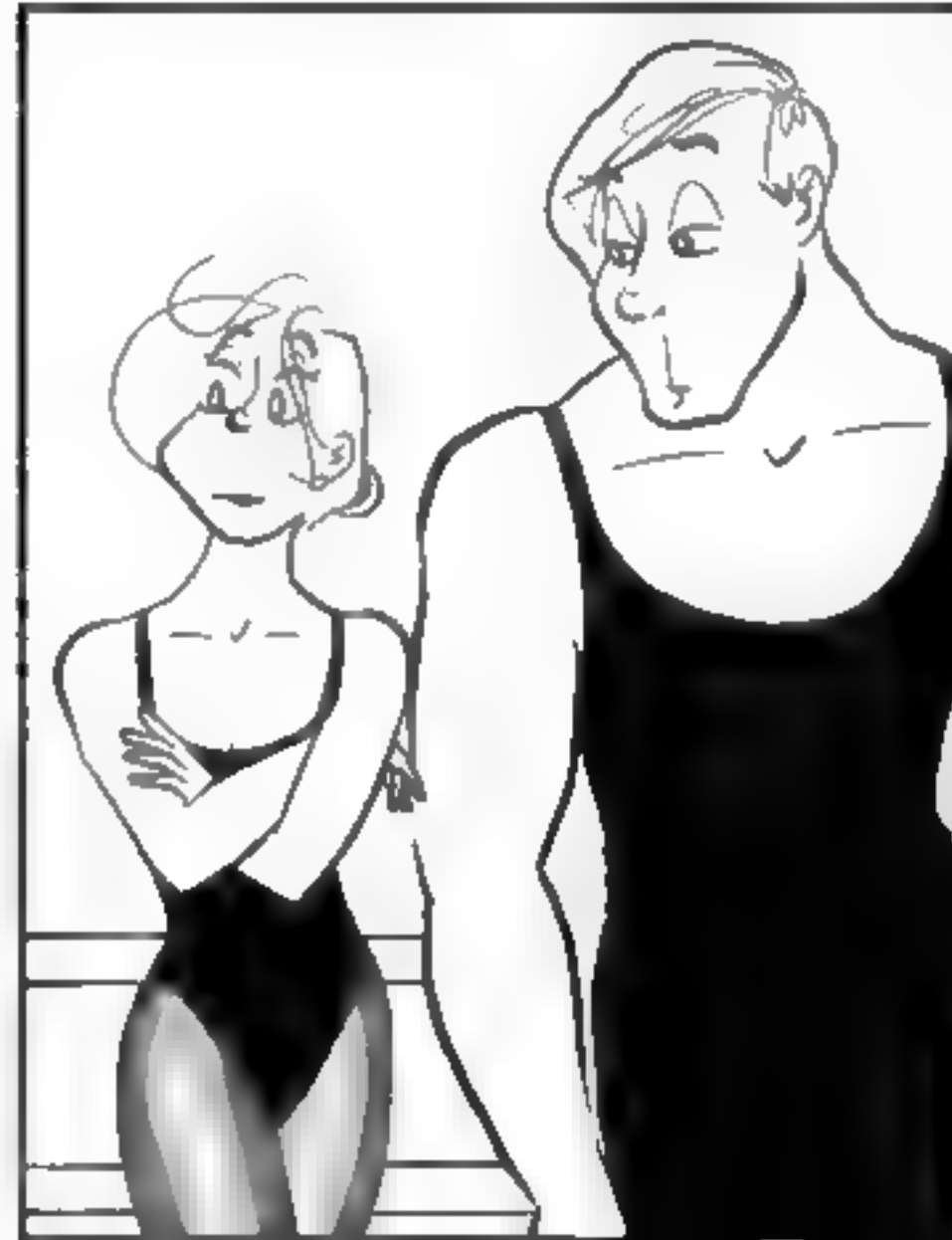




DOESN'T UNCLE ROGER'S  
VAST FLOCK OF  
PROGENY  
SOMEHOW  
GAINSAY  
YOUR HUNCH  
THAT'S HE'S  
GAY?

HE'S ONLY TRYING  
TO PROVE OTHER-  
WISE TO HIMSELF.  
...I WAS IN THAT  
BOAT ONCE,  
STRAINING  
THROUGH A  
SUCCESSION  
OF GIRLFRIENDS  
TO PROVE  
HOW STRAIGHT  
I WAS...  
...HOPING  
IT WOULD  
REASSURE  
ME.

Brooke



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I DON'T SUPPOSE IT WOULD  
BE REASONABLE  
TO ASK YOU  
TO STOP  
ENVISIONING  
WHAT  
I JUST  
SAID.

THOSE  
HORSES HAVE  
ALREADY  
BURST FROM  
THE STABLE.





JULIETTE, I WAS WONDERING  
IF YOU COULD BRING YOUR  
INFLUENCE TO BEAR WITH  
EDDA TO MAKE HER  
STOP IMAGINING  
SCENES OF ME  
YEARS AGO, TRYING  
TO PROVE TO MYSELF  
THAT I WAS STRAIGHT.  
SHE BEGAN BY  
PLACING ME IN  
A HIGH SCHOOL  
SETTING...  
...THEN MOVED ME  
TO THE ROLE OF  
A WORLD WAR II  
FIGHTER PILOT WITH  
A BRITISH NURSE...



SETH AS GLADIATOR...  
...ME AS A CHRISTIAN  
SLAVE.



SETH AS MAINE REGIMENT  
COMMANDER THUNDERING  
HOME ON HORSEBACK FROM  
THE CIVIL  
WAR...



OOOOO...



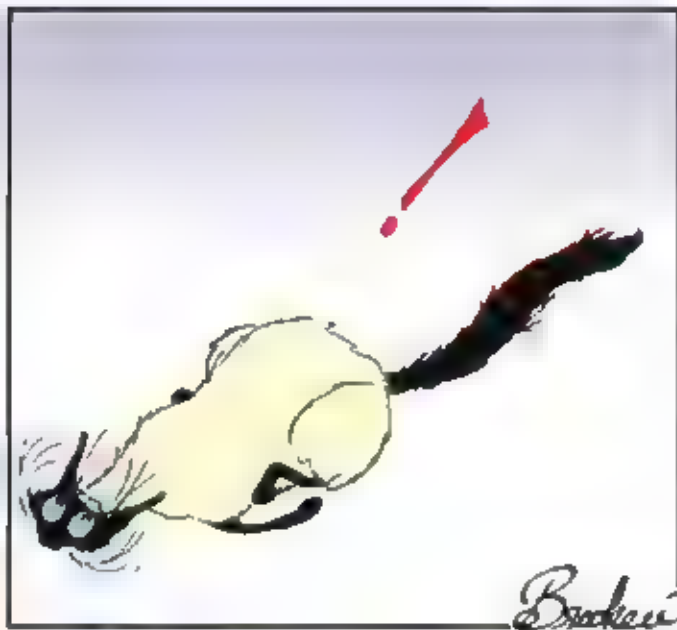
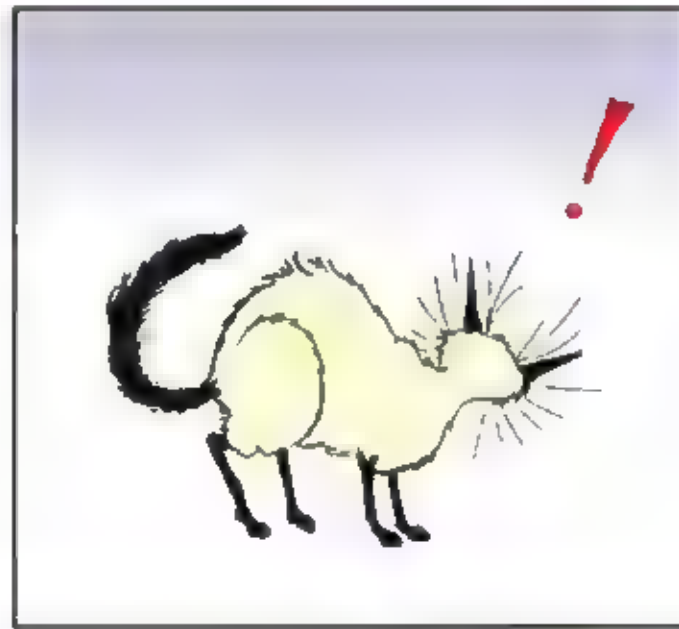
*Brooklyn*

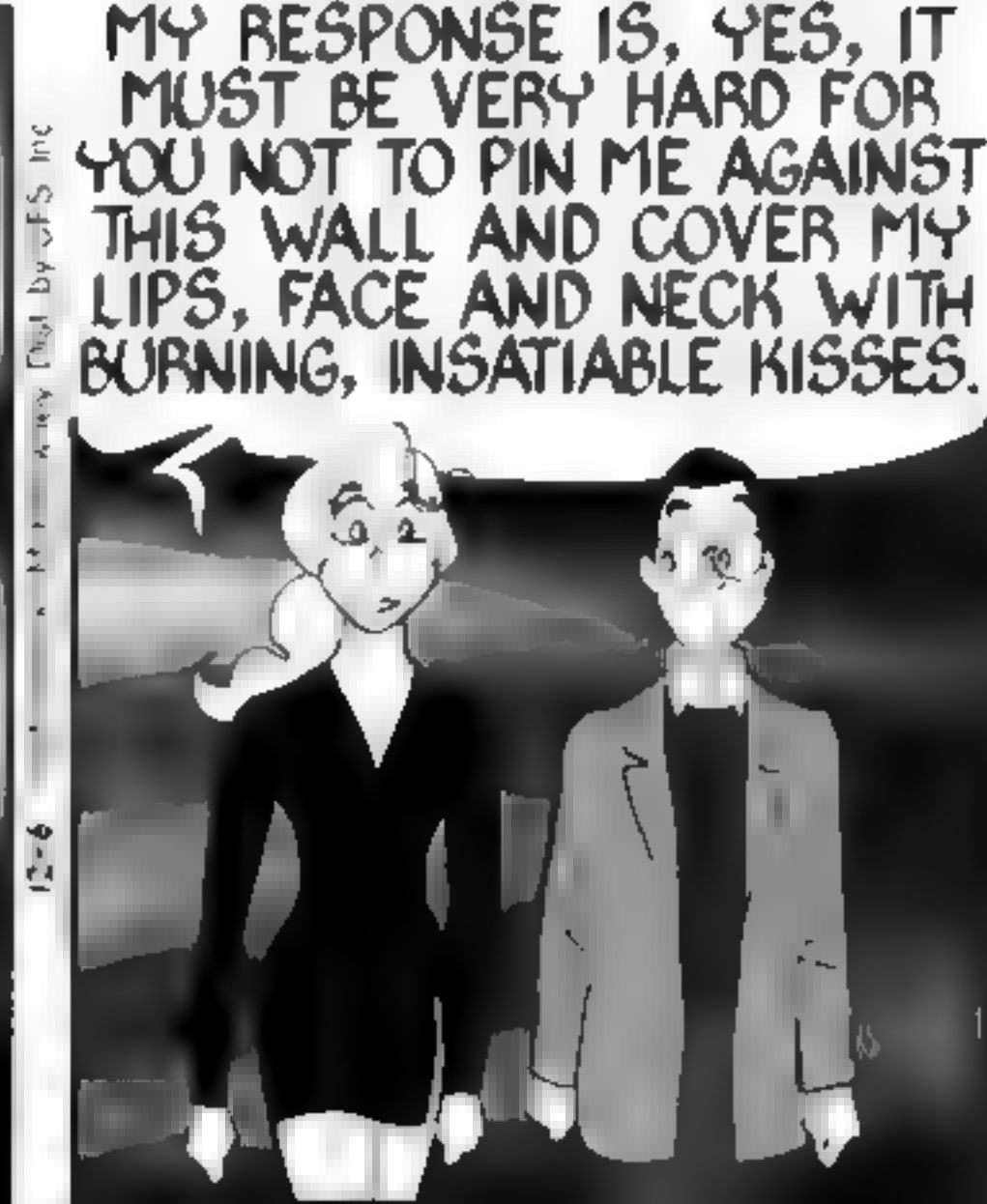
Mr. E. Downey Dist. by UFS Inc.

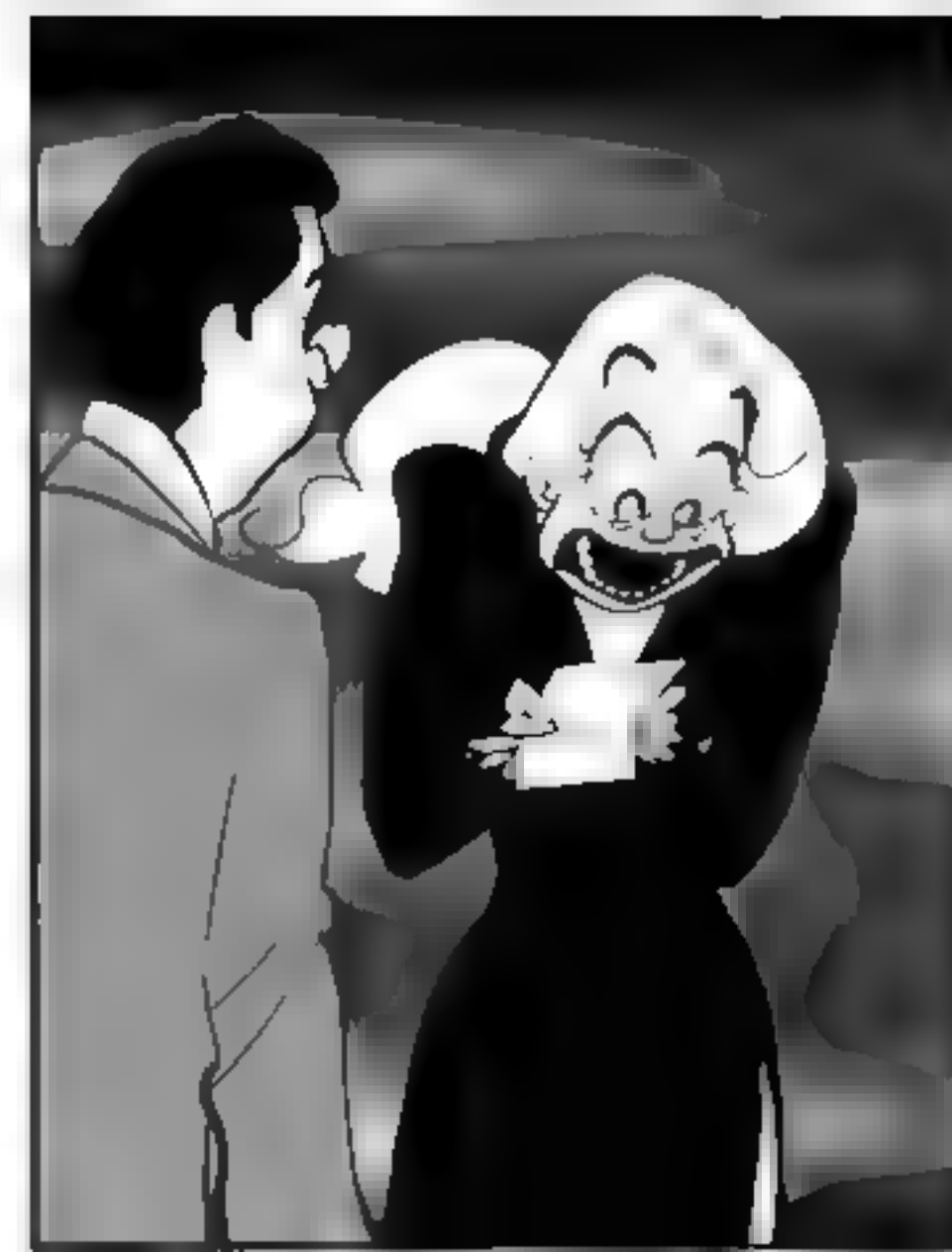
ROGER,  
IT'S TIME  
TO PUT AN  
END TO  
THIS.





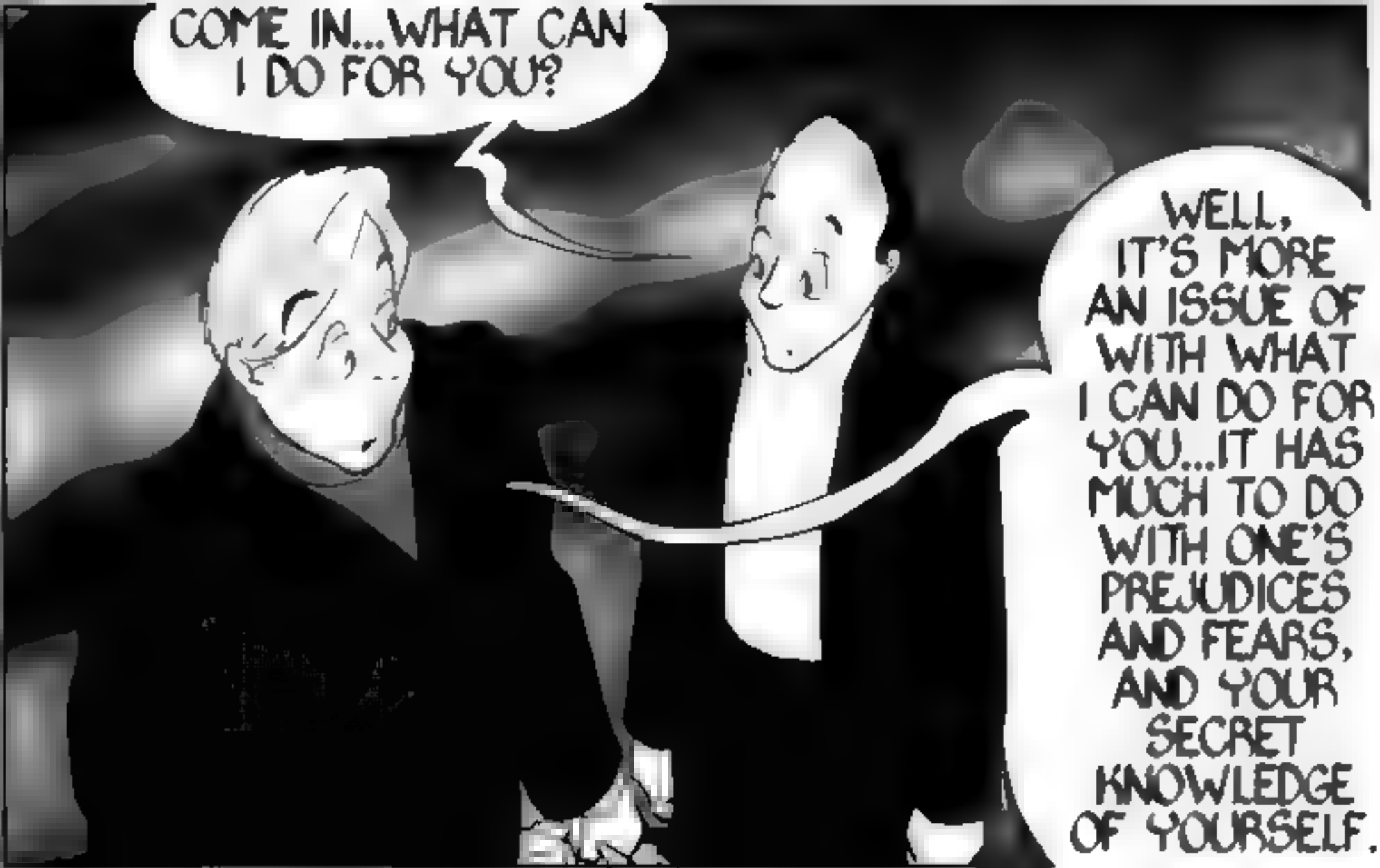


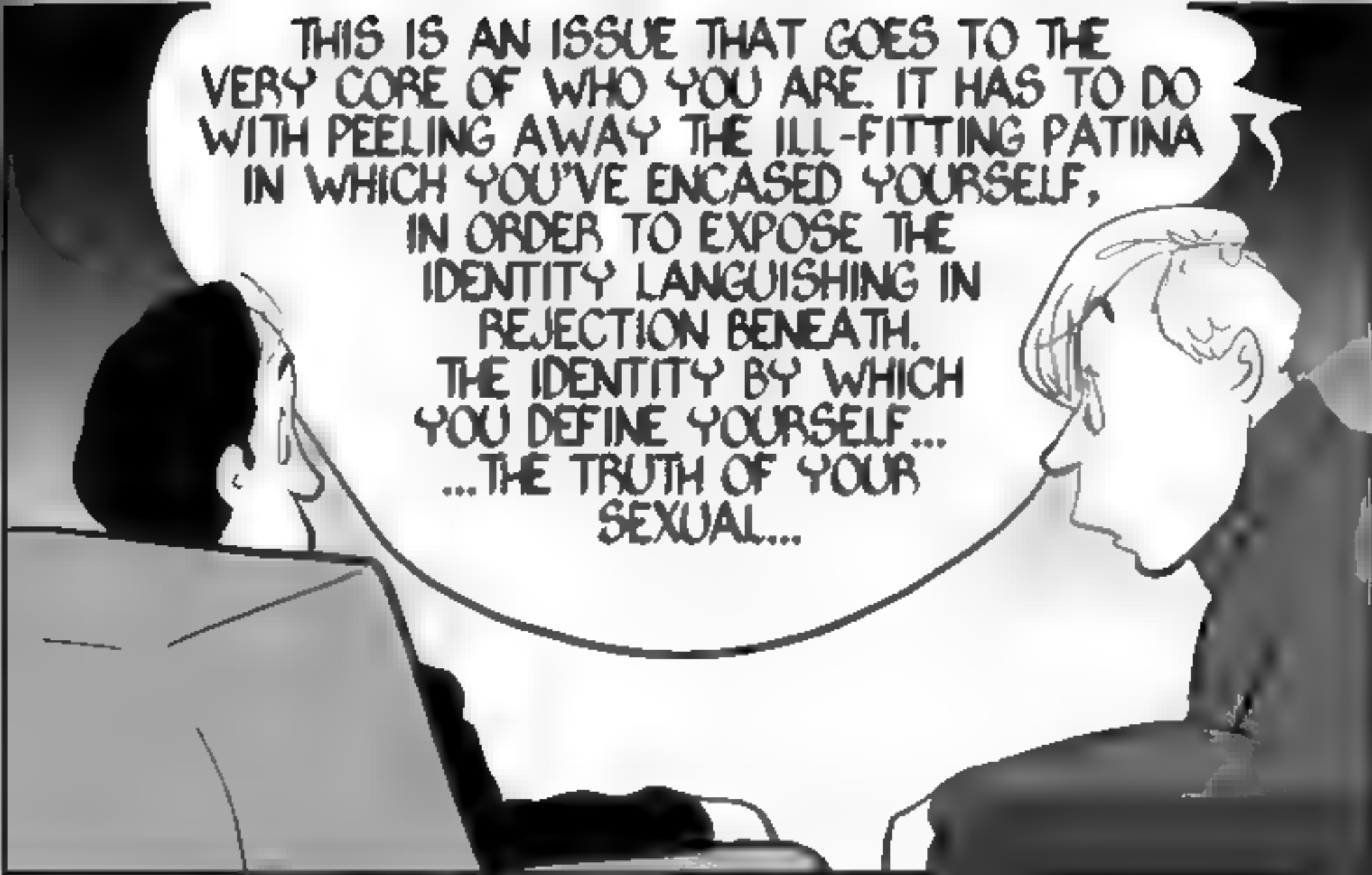








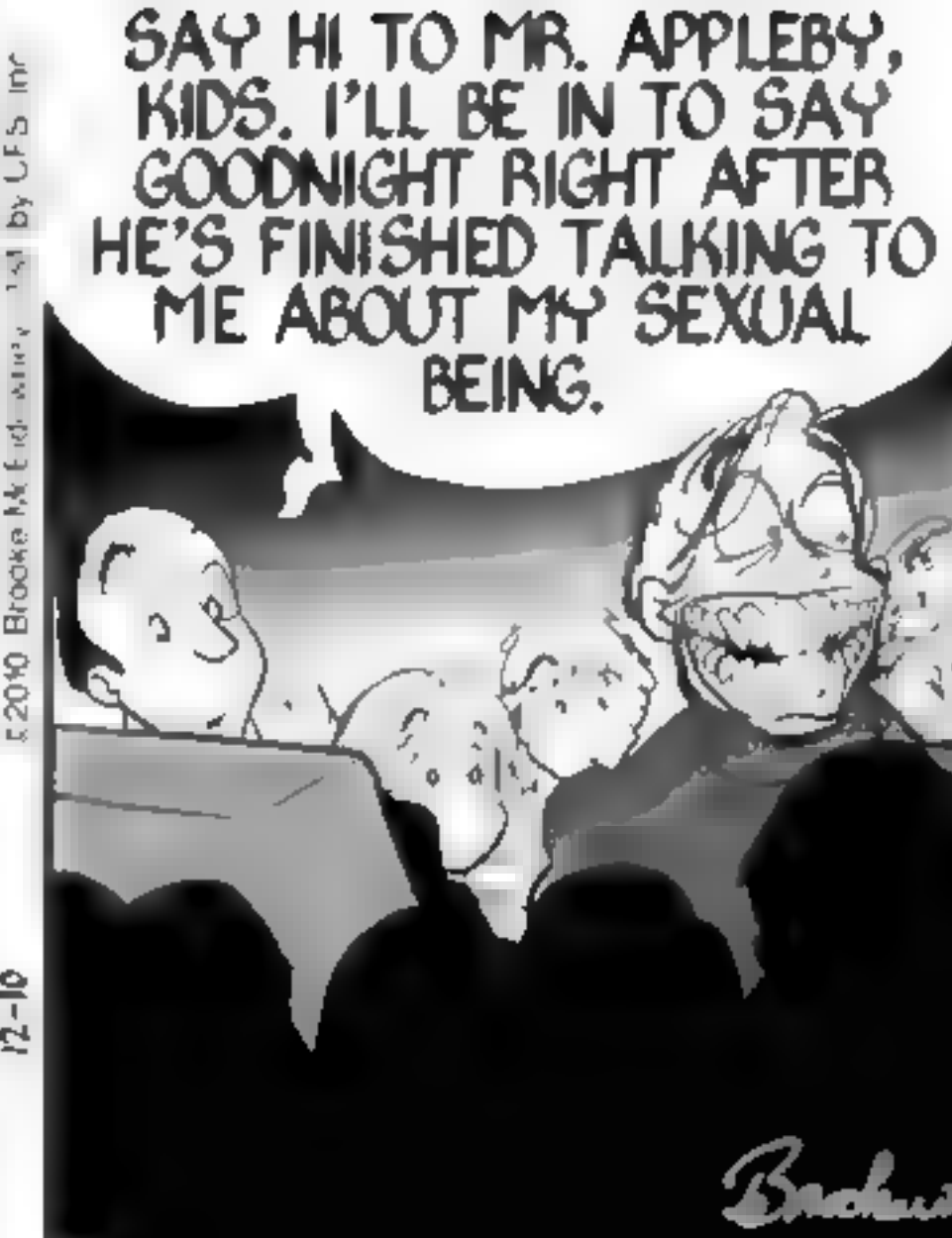




THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT GOES TO THE  
VERY CORE OF WHO YOU ARE. IT HAS TO DO  
WITH PEELING AWAY THE ILL-FITTING PATINA  
IN WHICH YOU'VE ENCASED YOURSELF,  
IN ORDER TO EXPOSE THE  
IDENTITY LANGUISHING IN  
REJECTION BENEATH.  
THE IDENTITY BY WHICH  
YOU DEFINE YOURSELF...  
...THE TRUTH OF YOUR  
SEXUAL...



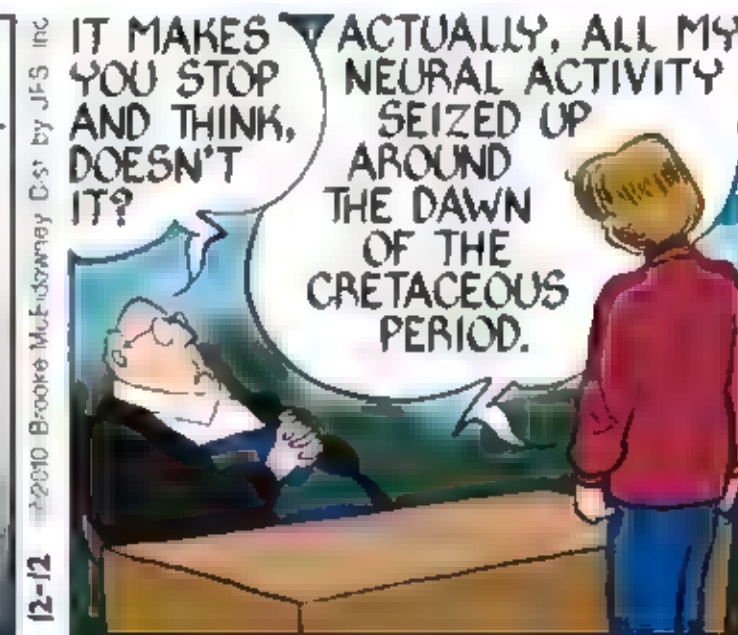
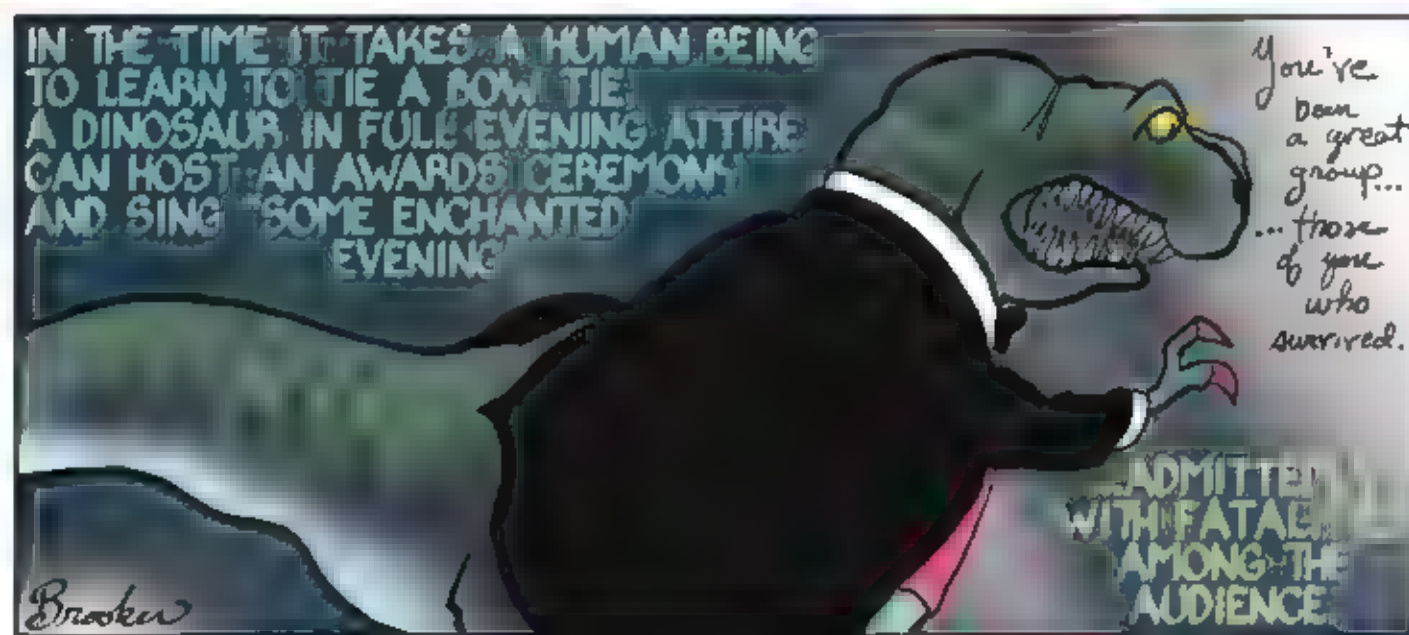
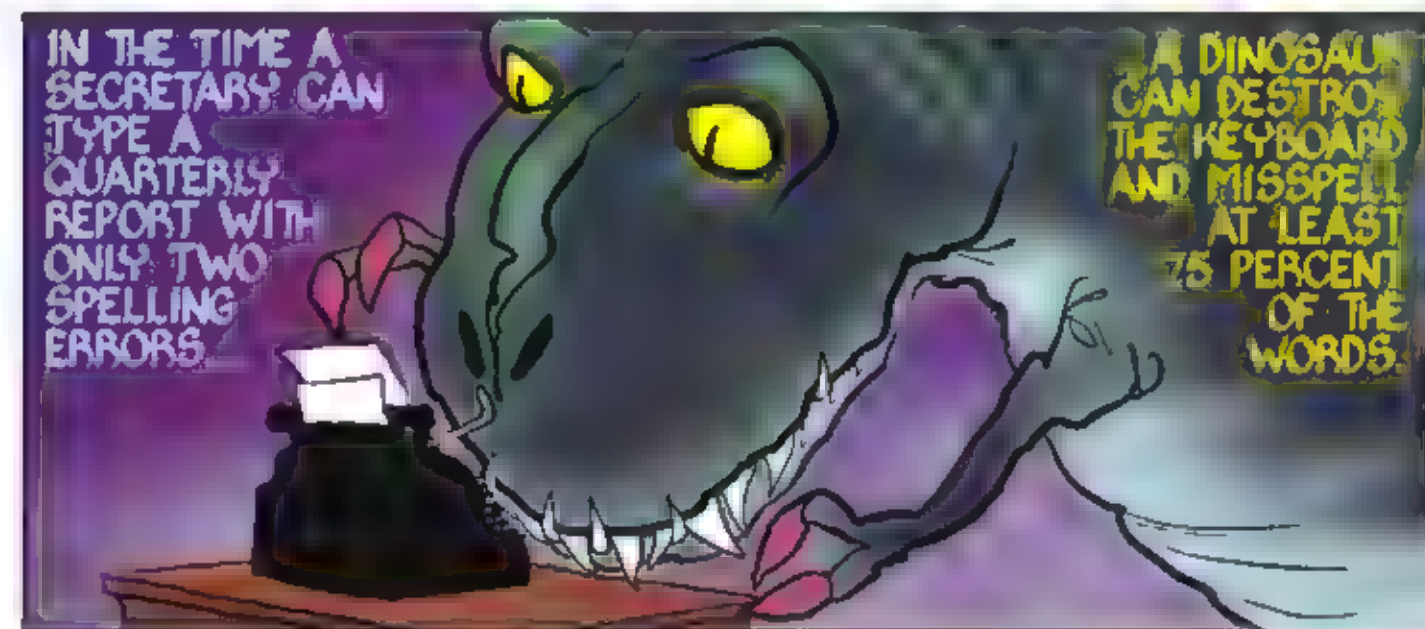
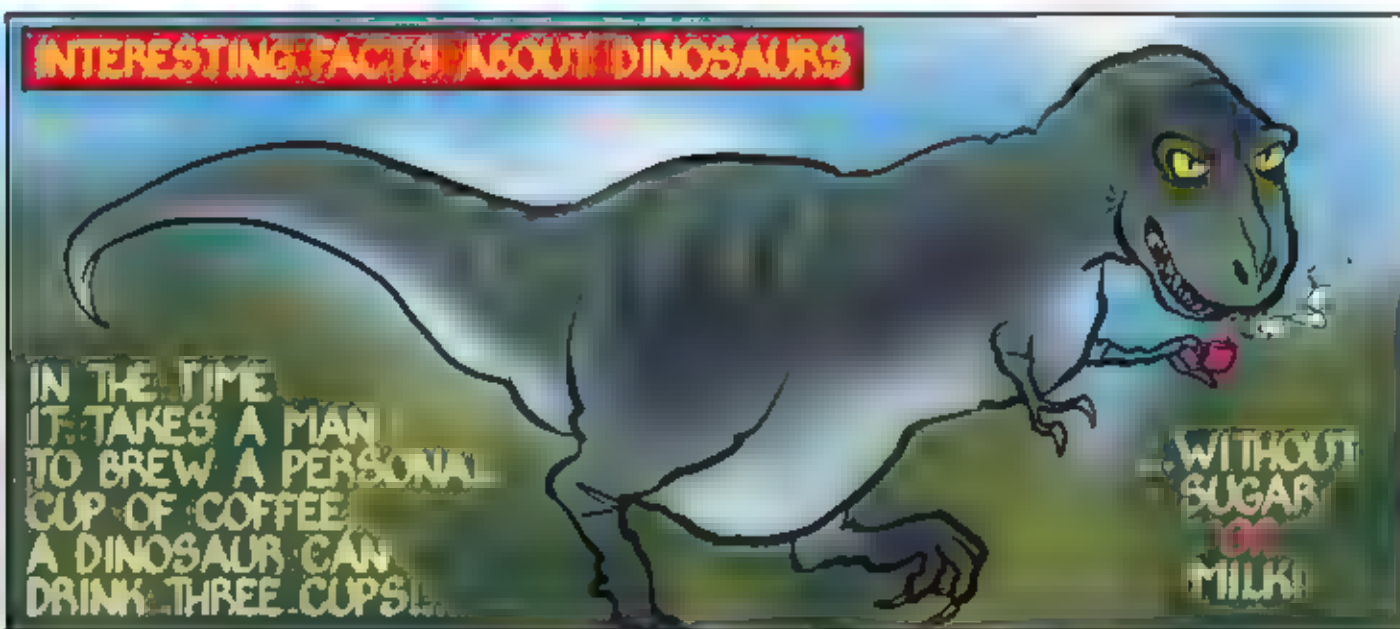
...BEING.

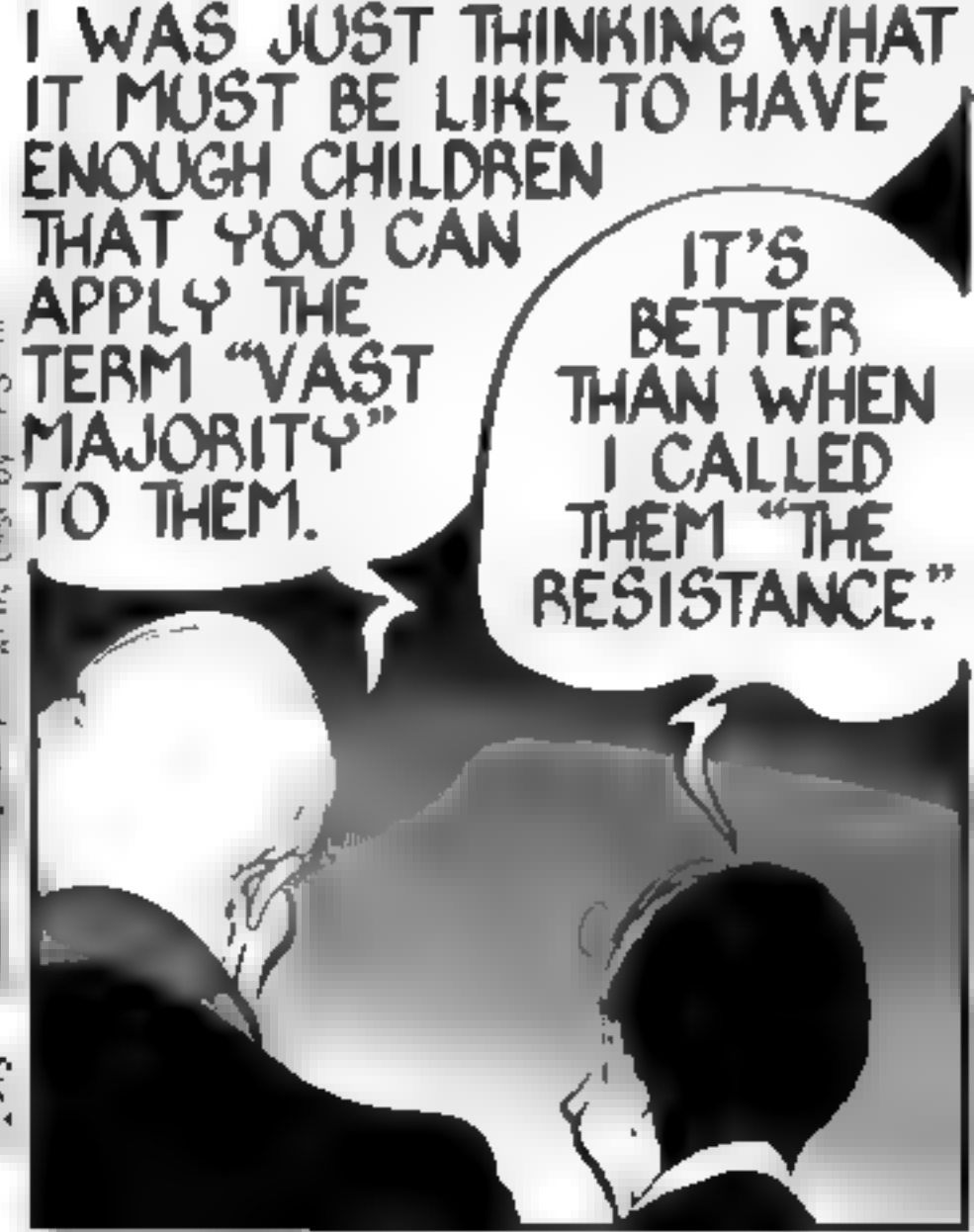


SAY HI TO MR. APPLEBY,  
KIDS. I'LL BE IN TO SAY  
GOODNIGHT RIGHT AFTER  
HE'S FINISHED TALKING TO  
ME ABOUT MY SEXUAL  
BEING.
















I SUPPOSE IT'S ABOUT TIME  
SOMEBODY TOLD ROGER HE'S  
GAY. FRANKLY, I THOUGHT  
HE'D SORT IT OUT FOR  
HIMSELF, THEN TELL ME.  
BUT BY THE TIME HE AND  
PENNY HAD THE SECOND  
SET OF TWINS,  
IT WOULD HAVE  
BEEN LIKE  
INFORMING  
HIM HE'D  
BEEN GOING  
AROUND ALL  
DAY WITH  
SPINACH  
IN HIS  
TEETH.



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I HARDLY THINK  
HOMOSEXUALITY IS  
COMPARABLE TO A BIT  
OF SPINACH CAUGHT  
IN ONE'S  
TEETH.

I...  
...I WAS  
REFERRING  
TO THE  
CHILDREN.




AND I'M NOT SURE  
I ENDORSE THAT SIMILE  
EITHER...SPEAKING AS  
**YOUR CHILD.**



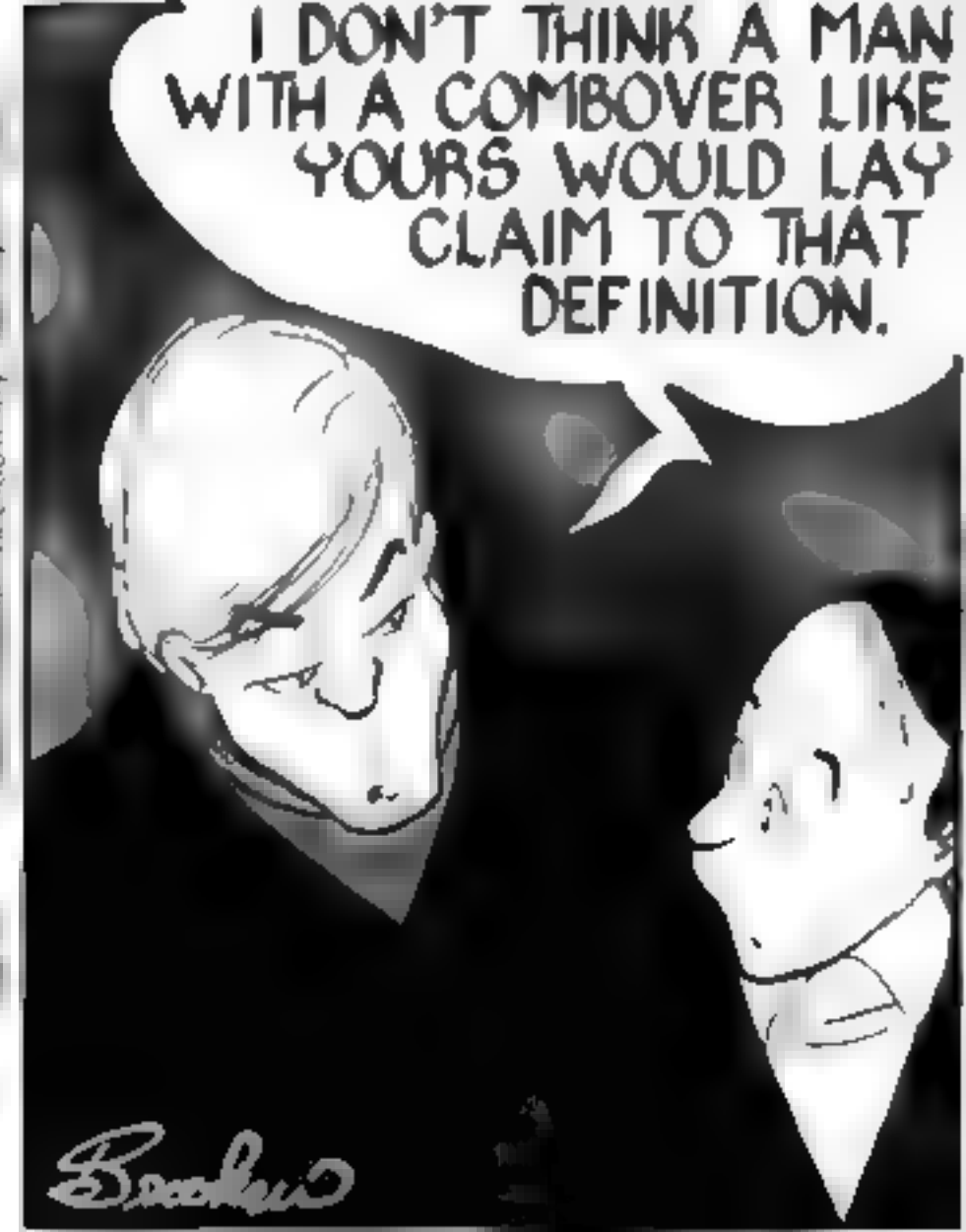
HOW DO  
YOU DEAL  
WITH A  
TELEPHONE  
CALL THAT'S  
GOING  
NUCLEAR?

I START  
TALKING LIKE  
DONALD DUCK,  
SLAM DOWN  
THE RECEIVER  
AND  
RUN.



Brooke





SO WHEN YOU ASKED IF I'M  
GAY, YOU DIDN'T MEAN  
JOYOUS, JUBILANT, ELATED,  
HAPPY, THRILLED,  
GLEEFUL...?

NO,  
ROGER,  
I DID  
NOT  
MEAN  
THAT.

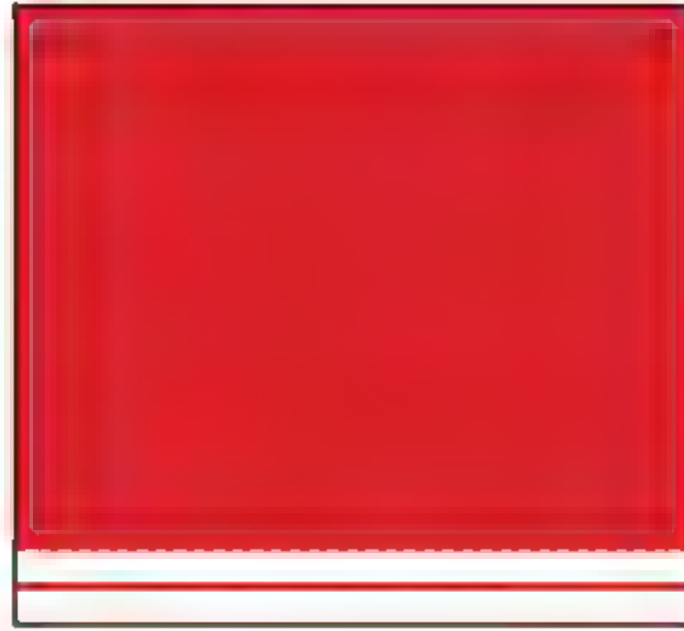
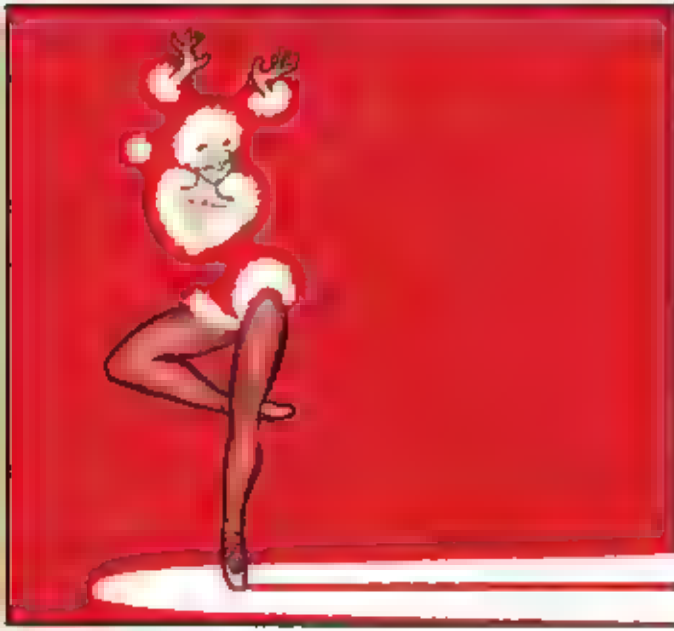
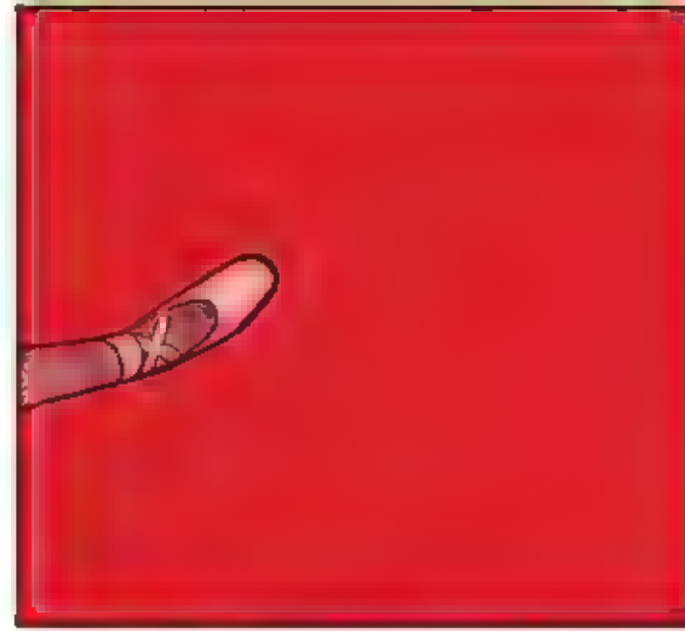
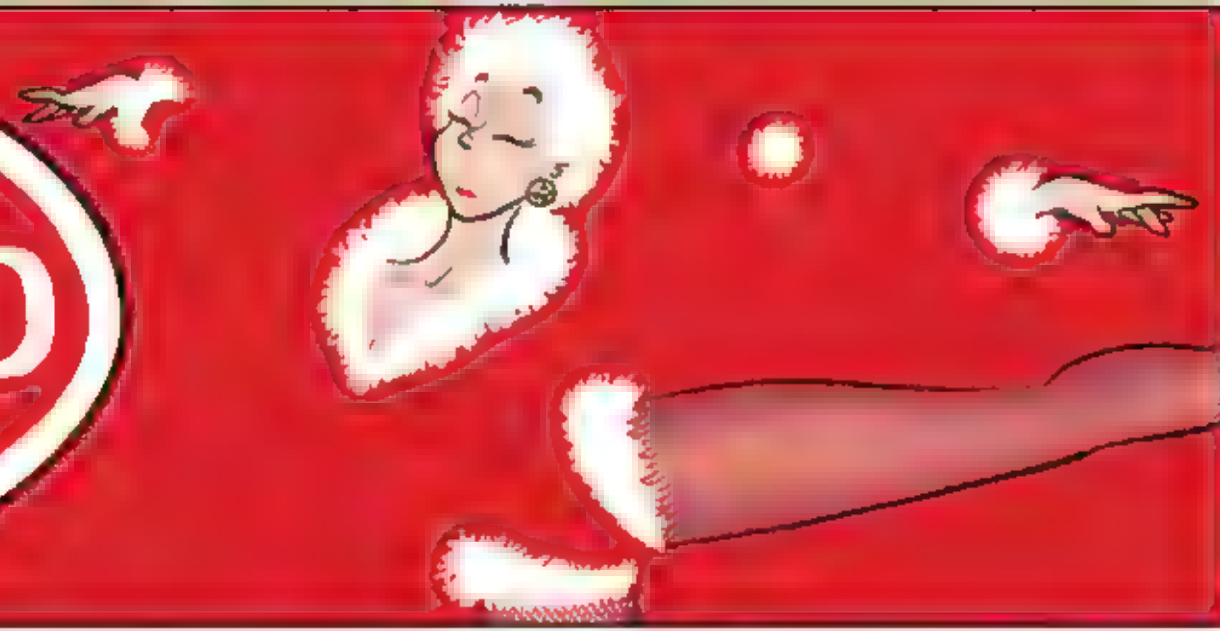
NANCY, LIMP-WRIST,  
HOMO, FAIRY...?

CURIOUSLY, I DIDN'T  
HAVE THAT IN MIND  
EITHER.

SHALL I RECITE  
THE SPECTRUM  
OF BRIGHTEST  
COLORS?

I CAN SEE THIS  
CONVERSATION IS  
GOING TO BE ALL  
UPHILL.

*Broken*







DID YOU JUST  
CHARACTERIZE ME  
IN UNFLATTERING  
TERMS?!

NO.  
...APT  
ONES.

YOU'RE A BLOCKHEAD.  
YOU'RE ALSO TACTLESS,  
OBNOXIOUS ON OCCASION,  
TALENTED, SWEET,  
GOOFILY SEXY...

I DON'T  
HAVE TO  
TAKE  
THAT!

Brooke

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BUT OUT OF  
DEFERENCE  
TO YOU, I WILL  
TARRY...

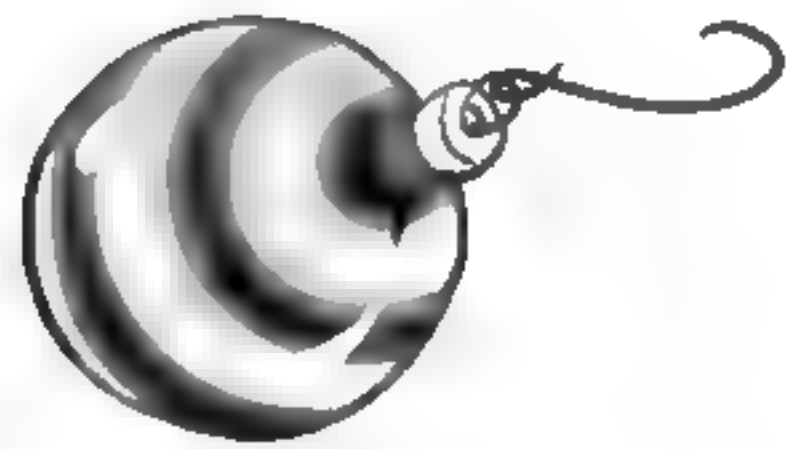




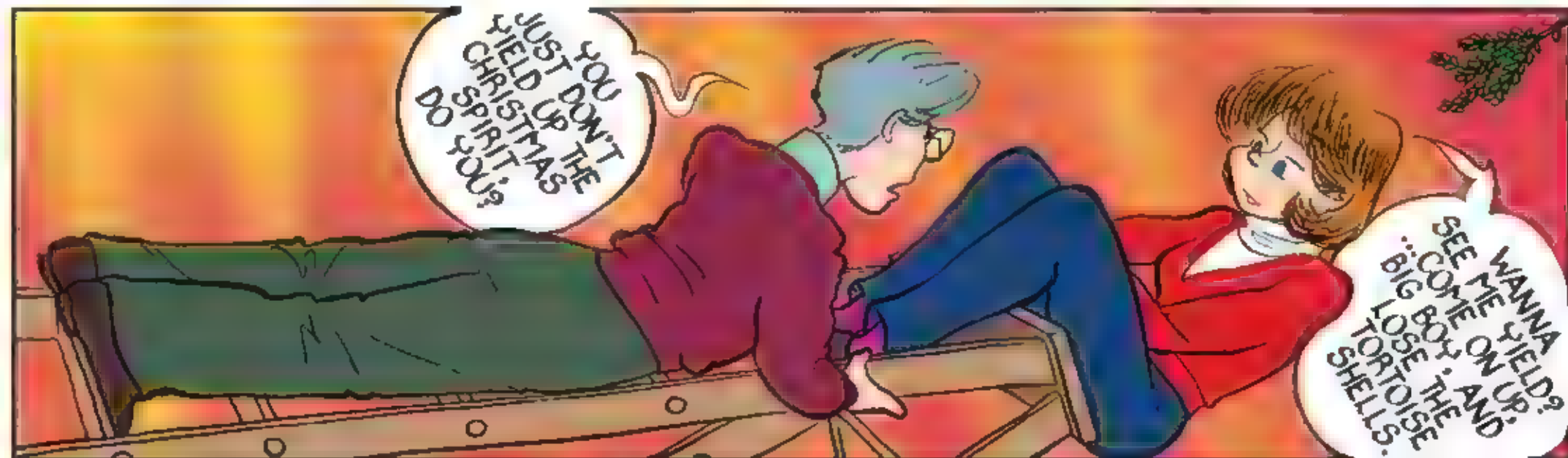
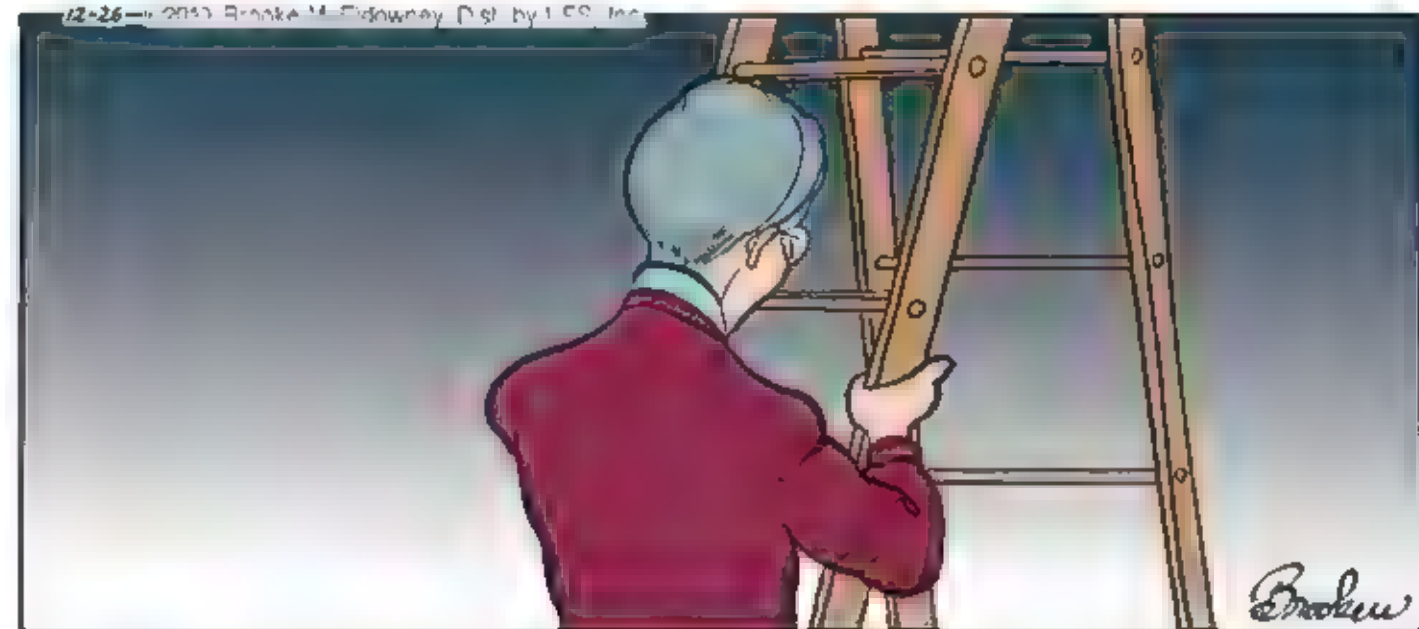
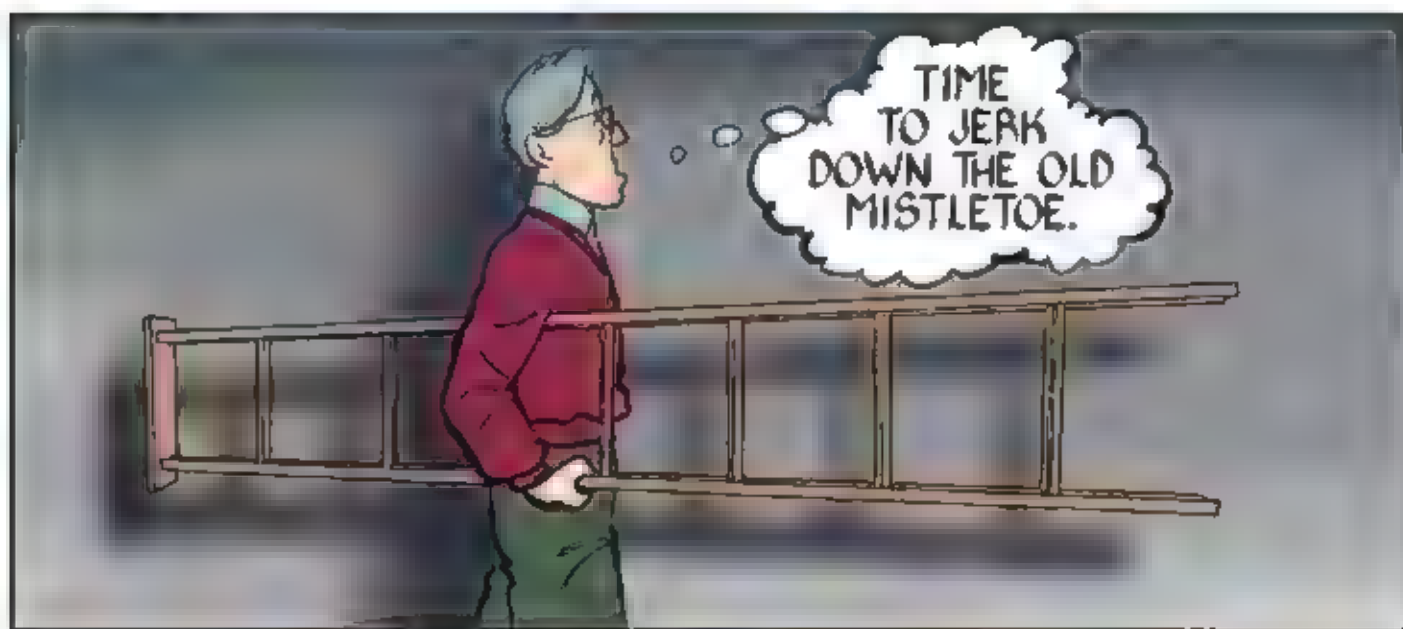




Brooke







HALLMARKS  
OF FELINITY:  
CHRISTMAS  
FEAST  
FINALE

*Booken*

THE DEATH  
VIGIL

SO YOU CONTEND UNCLE ROGER IS GAY?

I KNOW HE IS.

BUT HOW? WHAT SIXTH SENSE ARE YOU USING? WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT HIM?...AN AURA? A GLOW? DOES HE STAND A CERTAIN WAY? IS IT HOW HE FORMS HIS PHONEMES? IS IT AN ISSUE OF UNDERARM DEODORANT?

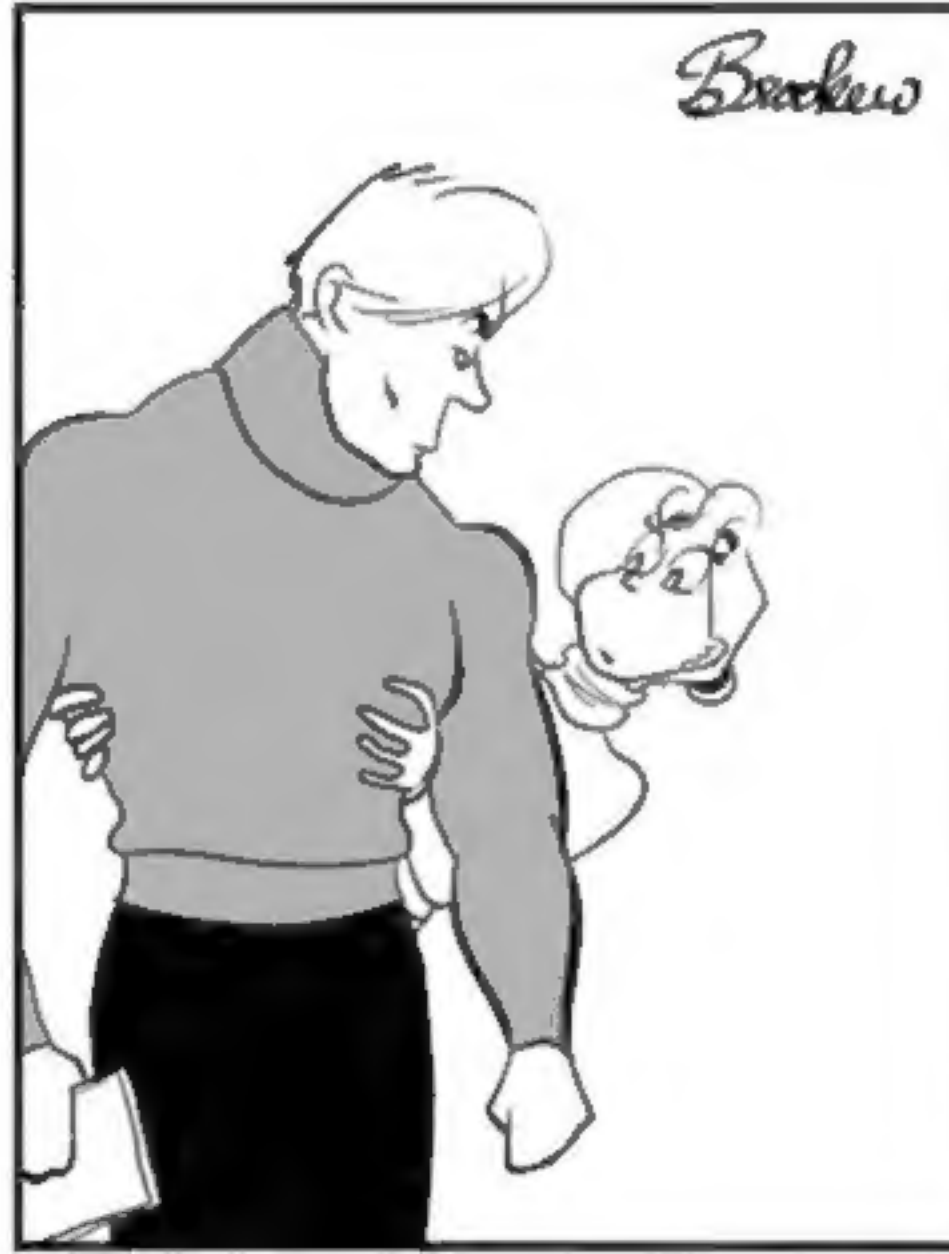
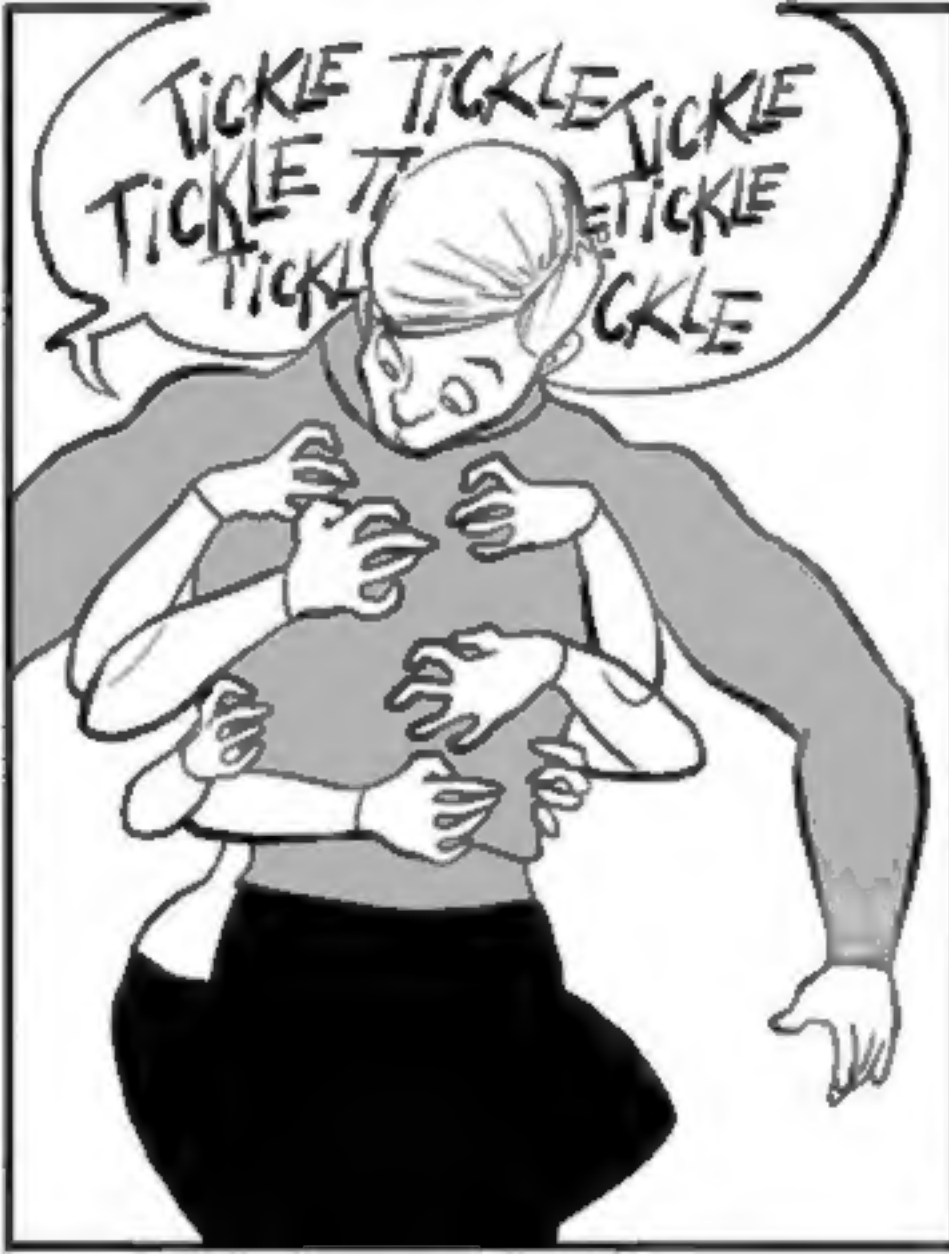
I KNOW IT THE WAY I KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO DIE OF TICKLE SEIZURES.

A black and white cartoon illustration. On the left, a female doctor with short hair and glasses, wearing a lab coat over a dark top, stands looking at a male patient. The patient has long, shaggy hair and is wearing a tank top; he is bent forward slightly, holding his back. A large speech bubble from the doctor contains the text: "SUGGESTIBLE TICKLE PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY. THERE IS NO KNOWN CURE." To the right of the doctor, there are several large, stylized, overlapping letters that spell out "HA HA HA" multiple times, indicating laughter. In the top left corner, the signature "Braden" is written in a cursive style.





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And  
I only had  
to flex  
a jaw  
muscle.









Compiled  
&  
Uploaded  
by



WebComixFan  
on



kickasstorrents

